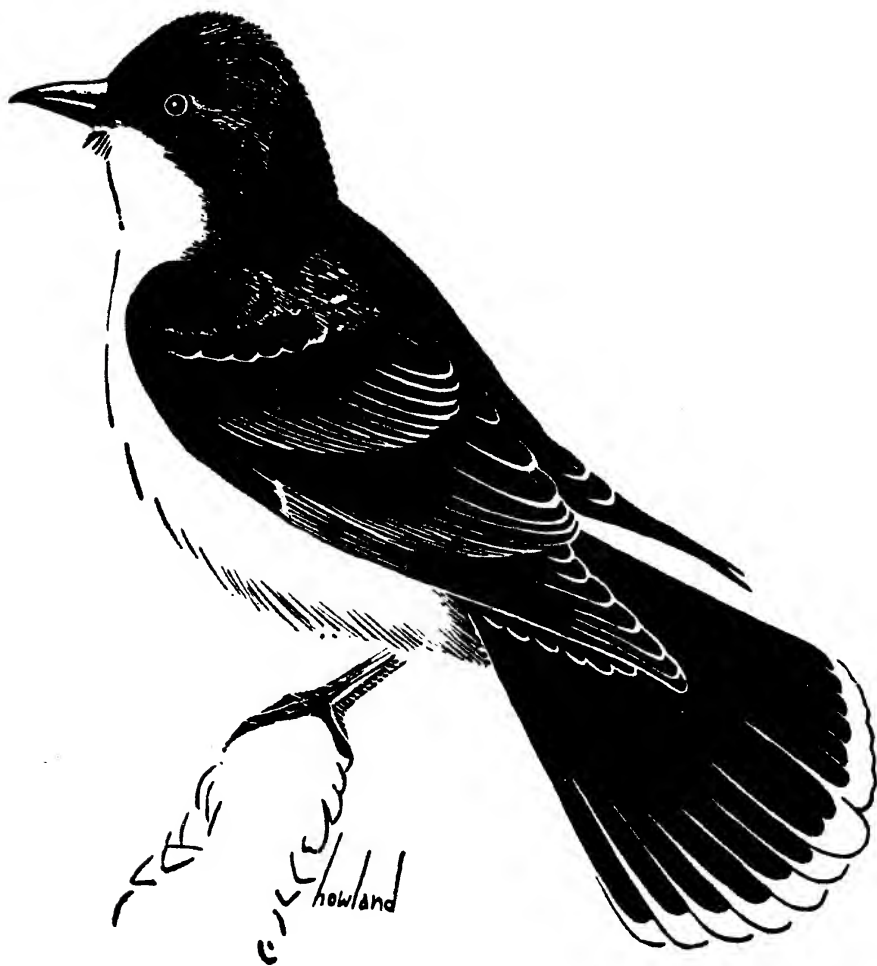


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



VOL. XXV, NO. 1

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**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

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# *The* KINGBIRD

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Vol. XXV No. 1

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It seems appropriate at this time in my second term as your president to make a report because I do think some forward movement has been occurring. At the same time it is proper to look at our deficiencies.

For me, a goodly portion of 1974 was taken up with getting reacquainted with the activities and people of the Federation after 20 years outside New York state. The other officers and committee chairmen gave generously of their time and thought to meet with me on several occasions for discussions in depth of our problems and plans.

At the 27th annual meeting in Fredonia last October our efforts began to bear fruit. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a summary of what happened. But let me briefly review some of the things that have been accomplished during the past year. The number of member clubs has increased by two to 40; our treasury ended 1973 in the black; important changes have been made in our by-laws providing for speedier approval of membership applications and the establishment of a widely representative executive committee; and an increase in dues to enable us to keep abreast of inflation and to maintain and expand our activities.

Some new activities have been initiated—identification workshops at the annual meeting, Federation-sponsored pelagic trips, and a state-wide spring migration peak count. Other new activities have been proposed (see summary of annual meeting in this issue) and will be put into action as soon as feasible and volunteers to undertake them come forward.

One of the most gratifying events at the annual meeting was receipt of a substantial contribution from Mrs. Dayton (Lillian) Stoner—one of our Founders and most loyal members—as a fund to enable one college student each year to attend our annual meeting.

A beginning has been made in establishing conservation policy guidelines and in enhancing Federation activity in conservation matters. Resolutions have been adopted recommending repeal of New York's enabling falconry law but encouraging retention of laws permitting the taking of falcons for purposes of research and reproduction programs. Another resolution urged the prohibition of crow shooting within the Adirondack Park to preclude the mistaken shooting of ravens. These have been sent to appropriate persons and agencies.

On the other hand I feel there are still areas where we are deficient and should begin to advance. With as many birders as there now are in New York State I see no reason why the individual membership should not be as high as 1,000—this would enable us to enlarge and improve the *Kingbird* and *New York Birders*, and to do other beneficial things. And it would add weight to our conservation efforts.

I would like to see much closer relationships between the clubs—joint meetings, field trips and action projects.

The material collected in the Regional Reports over the past 25 years provided a wealth of material for John Bull's fine book, *Birds of New York State*. Now we should move on to detailed, careful breeding, distribution and other types of censuses and studies.

Should we consider holding a second state-wide meeting in the spring devoted entirely to the pleasure of meeting other birders, birding in new areas and all that goes with such recreational birding? Other state bird societies do this with great success. Our annual fall meeting would remain the time for business, the scientific papers, workshops and the more serious business of self-appraisal.

And it would please me very much if there were a greater appreciation on the part of individual clubs and their members of what the Federation is, does and can do for them. It is rather shattering to hear of birders and occasionally club officers who seem never to have heard of the Federation.

To all of you who have helped and are continuing to help to make the Federation a healthier, more worthwhile organization goes my warm appreciation.

*Gordon M. Meade, M.D.*

# AN OBSERVATION OF THE TERRITORIAL AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR OF THE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

BARRY DEVINE

## PART I

### INTRODUCTION

The Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) is a territorial species that inhabits and breeds within our range from late February until its departure in early August. The following study was undertaken to observe and record the behavior of this species during its breeding cycle. Observations were made in an attempt to secure knowledge of such vital aspects as territorial behavior of the males, principal habitats selected, foods and feeding behavior, and for the females; arrival, behavior on the marsh, courtship, nest building, fledging of the young and eventual natality rates.

This first paper deals primarily with behavior up until actual nesting begins. A second, and later paper, will attempt to coorelate all observations made, from initial arrival until departure, with the attempt to ultimately add to and clarify the existing limited body of knowledge now documenting this species.

This paper will be divided into a number of sections. These areas will provide information on a variety of aspects of the breeding cycle. Some insight and clarification will be offered concerning previously documented research, though the time span of this study is short where many years are undoubtedly necessary. In addition, some ideas will be presented concerning an examination of what I have come to consider prime or preferred habitat and secondary or habitat of poorer quality. Here, the selection and maintenance of prime habitat by both males and females may show direct effects upon the vitality of the species.

### PLANT COMMUNITIES AND THEIR SPECIES COMPOSITION

The area of the study is located on the south shore of Long Island between the towns of Blue Point and Bayport. It is a sizeable area that fronts on the Great South Bay and comprises approximately 200,000 square feet. It is a diverse area botanically and various portions of it are in different seral stages of succession. Basically I have divided the area into four general plant communities.

## DUNE GRASS COMMUNITY

Along Great South Bay some 800 feet border the shore and are dominated principally by dune grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*) and seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*). For about 500 feet along the shore, dune grass is dominant with bayberry, poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*) and goldenrod growing in close relationship. Here the tide plays a very minor role, as the substrate is high enough so as not to be adversely affected. There are few entrances for salt water inundation of the wetlands that lie behind this dune community.

Further along the beach bayberry and goldenrod become dominant, with wild beach rose (*Rosa spp.*) having healthy distribution. The dune here has been washed away by tidal action and the waters continually erode from the base of the plants. Some have already died, but it is supposed that the sand removed in winter will be replaced to some extent in summer. The community shows wide diversity, being populated additionally by such species as greenbriar (*Smilax glauca*), *Prunus serotina*, *Acer rubrum*, *Ammophila breviligulata*, *Nyssa aquatica*, and *Amelanchier spp.* Essentially, this part of the beach is much farther along successionally. At one time it may have been a bay mouth bar since it is approximately 200 feet long and nearly 150 feet wide separating the bay from the marsh to the north.

Generally then, the entire wetland area is separated from direct intrusion of salt water by a buffer beach. The waters of the bay do not inundate the marshes to the north except at extremely high tides and only then by flowing in through a narrow channel and a drainage area. This has a very discernible effect upon the vegetation of the more hydric areas to the north.

## SWAMP – BOG COMMUNITY

The presence of many fresh water plants removes this area from classification as a salt marsh. Although tidal fluctuation has been noted on many occasions, the area is mainly influenced by entrance of fresh water. Succession has advanced rapidly and it is evident that some disturbance caused the area to retreat somewhat to its present state.

The dominant plant here is *Phragmites communis*. However, it grows in great stands but does not control the area totally. Large low areas of *Spartina patens* to the south generally give way to the more

hydric plants *Scirpus spp.*, *Althaea officinalis*, *Thelypteris palustris*, *Myrica pennsylvanica*, *Acer rubrum*, *Amelanceier spp.*, and *Typha angostifolia* and *T. latifolia*. The presence of such fresh water plants, trees and the nature of the quaking substrate place this area more into a swamp-bog stage rather than a salt marsh. In this area there are some large stands of cattail which are bordered on one side by larger trees such as red or swamp maple, shadbush and tupelo, bullrush and marsh mallow border it on the other side where the level of the land is lower and shows a greater influence of fresh water.

#### OAK – MAPLE COMMUNITY

This is a rather small area in extent and lies just between the bog to the east and the salt marsh to the west. White oak, (*Quercus alba*), sycamore maple (*Acer pseudo-platanus*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) are dominant. The vegetation becomes increasingly dense as one penetrates in along the ditch which separates it from the west marsh. Together with the above dominants, *Nyssa aquatica*, *Salix nigra*, *Salix babylonica*, *Salix discolor*, *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, *Juniperus virginians*, *Amelanchier spp.*, and *Lonicera spp.* are prevalent. The area lies on a diagonal behind the beach community and extends as a border around the entire western and northern boundaries of the west marsh.

#### SALT MARSH COMMUNITY

This community is dominated alternately by such plants as *Spartina patens*, *Distichlis spicata*, and *Phragmites communis*. The first two often grow in dense mats covering large sections of the marsh. The last fills the other areas in great stands. To a lesser extent, the northern part of the marsh separated from the oak-maple community by a series of mosquito ditches, gives way to more hydric plants such as marsh mallow, bullrush, and some small stands of cattail. Tidal effect here is of greater influence than to the east, yet fresh water plays a strong role since tidal inundation is limited to narrow entrances.

As is apparent from the map of the area (Fig. 1), the general outlay shows a long narrow beach. Directly behind this is a salt marsh to the west and the swamp bog to the east. Between the two wetland areas lies the forest community and an adjacent field.

Both marshes were ditched heavily in the 1930's, but are not continually repaired though water does manage to flow in and out to some extent.

Male Red-winged Blackbirds normally arrive in this region during late February and early March. This study was begun in mid-February, and for the initial period before males arrived, the study area was mapped and partially classified floristically.

After arrival of the males the observation routine established was made to correspond with the presence of the males on the marsh. Observations made were usually in the early morning hours, or the hours just prior to sunset. Initially, male red-wings spend time establishing territories at these intervals and go into upland areas to feed during midday. Observations during the period before female arrival consistently found few if any males on the marsh.

As the study period progressed and females began arriving, intermittent observations were begun during midday. From that time on observations were done at various times during the day in order that all activities peculiar to a certain time would not go unnoticed.

### TERRITORIAL BEHAVIOR OF MALES

Throughout our region in the northeast, there are many varied times recorded for the arrival of the male red-wings. As has been stated, late February and early March are the times when the majority of the birds arrive. On February 12 the first male was seen perched atop a tall oak tree, but it is felt that this was one of the so called "vagrants" that Allen (1914) refers to. They do not normally frequent the open marsh and are generally birds who have wintered not far south.

February 20 saw a group of 10 pass through the marsh, while the 21st had 3, with 2 calling in the typical "Konc Kee Ree" song.

Allen (1914) refers to these early arrivals, grouping them in a stringent system of categories which from observation tend to be less strict than previously supposed.

In the closing days of February, the 26th, after a heavy snow—the residents began arriving. Of the nine that arrived, all were mature males. Much calling and threat display was observed from each, however the low numbers inhibited any intrusion and conflict since much of the marsh was open to selection.

The territorial behavior of the red-wing has been dealt with to a great extent by Bent, Smith, Allen and a number of others. Basically though, the arrivals of the males on the marsh begin the selection of certain set territories wherein a male will display through the typical "bill-up" and "song spread" behavior. Ordinarily they will claim a certain size area from which all others of their species will be ex-

cluded. Even females are threatened and intimidated until the male is ready to mate. The male will move slowly from place to place mapping out the boundaries of his territory, and it will vary in size with the density of the males on the marsh and the individual bird's prowess in intimidating others of his kind. Smith (1973) calculated these areas to be anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 square feet depending upon the above factors. The findings of this current study agree favorably with those figures. These areas then become personal breeding territories that males protect and which give them a certain advantage in mating.

Here I would like to introduce the terms prime habitat and secondary habitat. They will become very important in establishing the individual success of the male red-wing and provide information for a comparison of natality rates for the two areas, relating directly to a natural strengthening of the species gene pool.

From the beginning of territory selection, certain areas appeared to be favored over others. All males that arrived first began setting up these boundaries. In all cases these areas had a similarity not simply in plant species, but in vegetation type and size. Each territory fell on the perimeter of the marsh and botanically it was comprised of an area of low vegetation, and an area of higher more dense vegetation. The lower plants were mainly dense areas of bullrush, marsh mallow and some sort of open water; either a mosquito ditch or a low flooded area. Beyond this a portion of higher vegetation was always included. Most favorably this would be cattail or perhaps bayberry, high-bush blueberry, red maple or any such vegetation that was dense and from 4 to 10 feet tall. It is believed that the size, density and amount of protection offered by the vegetation is more important than the actual species itself though these factors are inherent to the species.

Then within a prime habitat was a lower area with some fresh water and another section of higher vegetation. Since young are fed almost exclusively insects, the wet areas and dense lower vegetation are explained as being advantageous in that respect. The higher vegetation provides suitable nesting area and protection for the female and young. This then is an interesting natural mechanism for increasing the vitality of the species. The strongest most dominant males would secure and hold the best territories; those areas including both open water and higher vegetation. Since females select territories on the basis of productive value and nesting sites, and not on the display and coloration of the male (Smith, 1973) this was a non-sexual selective factor of definite advantage in strengthening the gene

pool of the species. In essence then, males best in recognizing valuable territories will have a greater chance of mating with females selecting the best territories and in turn young will have a better chance of survival immediately and in future breeding cycles.

Secondary habitat was botanically inferior and was generally located in the open portions of the marsh and bog. Here there was dense vegetation, mainly *Spartina patens* and marsh mallow. Open water and flooded areas were not usually lacking but were more restricted. The one notable effect which seemed to have the greatest overall effect appears to be the lack of suitable nesting sites of minimal height and adequate protection. Largely, the tallest vegetation was *Phragmites communis*, and it does not grow densely enough as does cattail to provide required support and protection. Though Bent (1958) reports that red-wings frequently nest in the bullrush, buttonbushes, sedges and cattails, it is felt that prime nesting areas are of more suitable character in concealing and supporting the structure. It was found, and believed, that the secondary habitat is rich in dense lower vegetation but that the prime areas are selected first due to the presence of taller vegetation. In fact, of the eight nests located as of this writing, 7 were in what is considered prime habitat, concealed in bayberry, cattail, blueberry, maple and alder; and one was located in a fringe area poorer in quality but the nest built on one low stunted bayberry bush.

The males then have selected and are actively defending their territories. Conflict initially between males on the marsh was very low as species density was also low. Areas of prime habitat were always selected first by arriving males, and as it turned out, all were mature. This indicates that all of the mature males were able to identify prime habitat for mating purposes. Perhaps there is some mechanism which has selected the best to move north first.

From the beginning it was noted that calling was limited to the hours immediately after sunrise and before sunset. Midday is reserved for feeding in the upland meadows on the primary weed seed foods. The study area was generally devoid of all red-wings during midday and territories were left unguarded.

As the study period continued and more mature and later immature males arrived, all prime habitat was filled and the poorer or secondary habitat was partly filled. Before secondary habitat was filled however, stiffer competition was noted in the prime areas. Many individual mature males entered held territories but were quickly intimidated by resident males and left. As is usual in most cases of

territorialism, an animal is dominant within the bounds of his territory. Threats and displays are all that is normally needed to force off an intruder. Beyond his territorial boundary however, the resident animal quickly loses his edge and is forced back himself. For this reason, threat and displays replace actual fighting and it is the exception where the chase and fight is seen. Within the study period though, there were definitely times when conflict was more intense, and physical conflict was common. These occurred just prior to the arrival of the females and the building of nests. At both of these times conflict increased markedly over previous weeks and remained so for 2-3 days.

The call of the male red-wing does not appear normally to be directed at any individual bird. In fact intruding males are often frightened by merely the arrival of the resident in their vicinity. The display of puffed-up wings and threat call are often made in the opposite direction to the intruder, though still they have their intended effect. What was interesting though was that mature male intruders will sometimes enter a territory, display and call; while immatures often enter in groups of from 3-5 and are never seen to call or display and in all cases observed were unsuccessful in ousting a resident male.

No banding was done so ultimate determination of the numbers of deposited residents is unknown. However, most resident males were seen to call from certain preferred locations on the periphery of their areas and from knowledge of this it was ascertained that as is generally thought, replacement is infrequent, perhaps rare. Territories though are subject to changes. From initial boundaries, the size of the territory may be diminished on many sides as intraspecific competition increases and more dominant males are able to extend their own boundaries. This allows more males to inhabit a smaller area until it reaches carrying capacity, though the effect upon clutch size and condition is unknown. Observations lead me to believe that this occurs largely in prime habitat, and that secondary habitat territories are greater in size and are infrequently intruded upon or diminished.

Conflict in the study area appears to be cyclical in nature. With the initial arrival of the males and plenty of habitat available, conflict is minimal until perhaps 7-10 days later. At this point most territories have been established and the arrival of large numbers of mature and immature males causes the conflict for territory to increase greatly, becoming overt. Lasting for some 2-3 weeks actual chases and fighting are common as competition from intraspecific inter-

action becomes intense. Finally, as territories are diminished and to some unknown degree lost and regained, competition decreases to a minimal level. At this time no overt actions are observed, and the only mechanism needed to force off an intruder is to meet him before entrance.

Approximately a week before the arrival of the resident females, competition increases greatly in intensity. The overt hostility of chases and actual fighting are continually observed, as are consistent intrusions on resident territory. From all indications it appears that there is some mechanism through which males become aware that females are arriving and mating is in the offing. Perhaps it is the arrival of one or two females in the area that triggers this behavior. Almost instinctively the males without territory, peripheral males, realize the importance of this time and desperate attempts are made to secure territories.

Within a week or more competition has become minimal again. The area appears quiet but for the continual calls and displays that are usually directed at no one bird in particular.

A day or two before actual nest building was observed, conflict again grew intense in the same manner. Many more intrusions were observed and the area was alive with chase and combat. Here again it appears that some mechanism signals the beginning of nesting. Instinctively the peripheral males are aware that mating is about to occur. Desperate attempts are again made to secure a mating territory.

Since red-wings are considered promiscuous and females ordinarily have anywhere from 2-4 clutches per season (Bent, 1958) at this point in the study it is not known whether this increase in competition from the peripheral males continues throughout the entire nesting period until mid-July. However, it is doubtful since Smith (1973) concludes that territories break down after young fledge. This must of necessity be when the young of the last clutch fledge, so that boundaries are kept up for the entire period. Still it is not known whether the first mating dispenses the conflict for territory or whether this conflict from peripheral males continues unabated with the numerous nests built.

Several observations in areas other than this study area reveal some trends not previously documented. Though Bent (1958) concludes that the birds prefer areas located near water, they are found in dry uplands a considerable distance from water. Observations recorded by Black (1974) have revealed territorial activity in dry uplands in a grass and cedar stage. These males have been seen to estab-

lish well delineated territories though the areas are well removed from the vicinity of water or marshes. Bent only states a considerable distance, but what does this mean? Black's observations reveal that these territories were approximately one mile from the nearest water. Does this indicate that these are perhaps the peripheral males of the inhabited marsh that intraspecific competition has caused to expand their range and forage for alternate foods and nesting area? However, additional observations may reveal that these are acceptable diversions and of no consequence.

Another interesting fact observed by this author is in relation to the roosting behavior of male red-wings. They are known to leave the established territories sometime after sunset and travel to the roosts where several hundreds or thousands of both red-wings, grackles and starlings may spend the night. The roost area observed was located in a small white pine forest at Suffolk Community College. Depending upon the time of sunset, the three species began to arrive. During this time male red-wings were observed calling and displaying amidst the community in the pine forest. Investigation of previous research mentions nothing concerning territorial activity within a roost. In fact, I assume it to be non-existent since the birds are in large numbers in a small area and any establishment of a territory would be inconceivable. Yet these males that were calling and displaying continually within the roost were not observed during the day and one can only assume that however unsuccessful, they were in fact attempting to claim a certain area.

In all, within the study area, approximately 45-50 territories were established in both prime and secondary habitat. The relationship to numbers of females will be dealt with in a later section, as will natality of young produced in relation to the two varied habitats.

*Box D, Mecklenburg, New York 14863*

## 1975 ANNUAL MEETING

The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society invites you to attend the 1975 Federation Council meeting to be held at Oneonta, New York, on September 26, 27 & 28 of 1975.

Plan now to join us for the meeting and field trips we are enthusiastically planning. The fall leaves should be at their brightest. We have varied and unique natural areas for you to explore. Arrangements for accommodations will vary to serve the desires of those attending and will include camp sites.

We'll look for you in the northern foothills of the Catskills next September!

---

## NEW MEMBERS

The Federation welcomes the following new members:

Agresti, Erma, 850 Vine St., Liverpool, N.Y. 13088  
Arias, Manny, 2355 East 12th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229  
Brady, John, 135-32 114th Place, Ozone Park, N.Y. 11420  
Brady, Marie, 135-32 114th Place, Ozone Park, N.Y. 11420  
Cantor, Irving, 251 East 32nd St., New York, N.Y. 10016  
Carrolin, Thomas L., 340 Flower Ave. East, Watertown, N.Y. 13601  
Coruzzi, Mrs. Evelyn M., 28 Kingsley Rd., Huntington, N.Y. 11743  
Coyle, Mrs. Stephen, 6990 Manlius Center Rd., East Syracuse, N.Y. 13057  
Duffy, Mary A., 1946 Kimball St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234  
Hilton, J. Richard, Society for the Preservation of Birds of Prey,  
Box 891, Pacific Palisades, Calif. 90272  
JeHeber, Paul, Box 251, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y. 12520  
Kelly, Miss Marie, 17 W. Montgomery St., Ilion, N.Y. 13357  
Miller, Roger L., M.D., 17 Coolidge Rd., Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010  
Mullin, Joan, 1942 Kimball St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234  
Nevins, Linda, Hillside Ave., Greenwood Lake, N.Y. 10925  
Paliotta, Eddie, 208 Delhi St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13203  
Single, Dr. Eric, 635 North Broadway, Upper Nyack, N.Y. 10960  
Taber, Patricia A., R.F.D. 2, Westport, N.Y. 12993

## 1974 FEDERATION STATEWIDE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

GORDON M. MEADE, M.D. and THOMAS H. DAVIS

Between May 11 and 19, 1974 eighteen member clubs of the Federation and groups of individuals conducted spring migration peak counts and submitted their results for this compilation. This was the first of what is hoped will become an annual event. It can provide not only fun for the participants but valuable information about the distribution and occurrence of resident and transient species in New York state.

Minimal rules were set up for this first count. Counting groups were free to choose a date that suited them best, to cover whatever territory in a 24 hour period they wished but to submit supporting details on unusual observations.

As the table that follows shows, 249 species and one hybrid were tallied. The extraordinarily late Tree Sparrows were thoroughly documented on the same count which reported a Fox Sparrow without any supporting details—it is therefore not included. The Black Rail at Oak Beach Marsh responded to a cassette tape recorder playback of its own protest calls and approached to within 5 feet of the observers!

There is no question that this total does not include all the species which were or might have been present in the state during the count period.

“Missed” breeding species were Spruce Grouse, Gray Partridge, American Oystercatcher, Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker, Northern 3-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Common Raven, Boreal Chickadee and Short-billed Marsh Wren. Cause for concern is the “almost missed” status of the Loggerhead Shrike with only a single bird seen in the entire state! What is happening to this species? Several other species were seen on only one or two counts but these mostly were species whose range is quite restricted or specialized at all times, e.g. Willet, Red Knot, Little Gull, etc.

“Missed migrants” were Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Wilson’s Storm-Petrel, Gannet, Black Scoter, Whimbrel, Red Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Yellow-throated Warbler.

“Missed, possible rarities” were such species as Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Chuck-wills-widow, Blue Grosbeak and several others.

An Adirondacks "Big Day" covering the Madawaska black spruce bog area near Paul Smith's and "Ferd's" Bog near Eagle Bay could have added 5 or 6 breeding species, and a pelagic "Big Day" off Montauk might have secured 6 to 8 more species.

The total of "missed" breeders and migrants is 23 which brings the number of species possibly occurring during the spring peak to 272. If we permit ourselves a bit of license and assume that there may have been at least 3 "possible rarities" somewhere in the state we arrive at 275 species as a total. This is 67% of the total number of species (410) recorded for New York state (according to Bull-1974).

In 1975 the dates for the statewide spring count will be the period between May 10th and 25th, inclusive. All member clubs are urged to participate this year and to submit their results to Ms. Cheryl Boise, Granville Hill Road, Sherburne, N.Y. 13460 with a copy to Thomas Davis, 9446 85th Road, Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421.

*27 Mill Valley Road  
Pittsford, N.Y. 14534*

*9446 85th Road  
Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421*

	Counting Society or Group																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Lake Erie Bird Club	Allegany Bird Club	Genesee Ornithological Soc.	Eaton Ornithological Soc.	Onondaga Audubon Soc.	Triple Cities Naturalists Club	Oneida Bird Club	Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc.	High Peaks Audubon Soc.	Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club	John Burroughs Nat. History Soc.	R. T. Waterman Bird Club	Sullivan Co. Audubon Soc.	Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club	Brooklyn Bird Club	Queens Co. Bird Club	T. Davis, D. Finch, P. Lehman, R. Smart	Lyman Langdon Audubon Soc.
Date	May 16	May 19	May 19	May 19	May 18	May 19	May 11	May 18	May 17	May 18	May 12	May 18	May 11	May 17-18	May 12	May 11	May 12	May 18
No. of Participants	5	126	50	11	10 parties	?	22	?	10	25	15	26	11	25	7	?	4	25
County(ies) or Area Covered	Chautauqua	Allegany	Monroe, Wayne, Orleans, Genesee, Ontario, Livingston, Cayuga	Wayne, Orleans, Seneca	Region 5	Broome, Tioga	Oneida, Herkimer, Madison	Delaware, Otsego	Essex	Schenectady, Saratoga, Albany	Ulster	Dutchess	Sullivan	Orange, Rockland, Sullivan	Kings	Alley Pond Park, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge	Dutchess, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk	Queens
Common Loon	0	6	*	2	*	0	0	0	1	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0
Red-throated Loon	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	0	4	*	1	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	*	0	0	0	0
Double-cr. Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	*	*	0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Common Merganser	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey Vulture	*	16	*	10	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	1	*	0	0	*	0
Goshawk	0	1	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	2	*	2	*	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooper's Hawk	*	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	*	81	*	13+	*	*	7	*	0	*	0	*	4	*	0	0	5	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	*	13	*	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broad-winged Hawk	*	17	*	*	*	*	0	*	4	0	*	*	3	*	0	0	1	0
Bald Eagle	0	0	*	1imm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1ad	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh Hawk	*	11	*	1	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	1	0
Osprey	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	*	0	0	0	0	1	*	0	0	0	0
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kestrel	*	30	*	10+	*	*	9	*	2	*	0	*	1	*	0	*	1	0
Ruffed Grouse	0	21	*	*	*	*	1	*	6	*	*	*	0	*	0	0	1	0
Bobwhite	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	*	*	*	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	*	8	*	26+	*	*	0	*	2	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	*	0
Turkey	0	37	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Virginia Rail	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	2	0
Sora	*	1	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	1	0
Black Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Common Gallinule	0	2	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	4	*	0	*	*	0
Coot	*	1	*	8	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Semipalmated Plover	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0
Killdeer	*	171	*	51	*	*	2	*	8	*	*	*	2	*	*	*	*	0
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Woodcock	0	5	*	0	*	*	1	*	1	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	2	0
Common Snipe	*	6	*	4	*	*	1	0	1	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Upland Sandpiper	*	1	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	*	28	*	12+	*	*	4	*	4	*	*	*	5	*	*	*	*	*
Solitary Sandpiper	*	7	*	0	*	*	6	*	1	*	*	*	2	*	0	*	0	0
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Greater Yellow-legs	0	0	*	5	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	1	*	*	*	*	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0
Pectoral Sandpiper	*	0	*	1	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	1	0
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Least Sandpiper	0	0	*	12+	*	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	*	0
Dunlin	0	0	*	112	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	0	*	28+	*	0	1	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	0
Hudsonian Godwit	0	0	*	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	*	*	*	0
Herring Gull	*	22	*	29+	*	*	0	*	8	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0
Ring-billed Gull	*	0	*	29+	*	*	0	0	66	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Bonaparte's Gull	*	0	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Gull	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Tern	*	0	*	2	*	0	1	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	*	1500+	0
Roseate Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Least Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Tern	0	0	*	3	*	0	1	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0
Black Skimmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0
Rock Dove	*	496	*	30+	*	*	28	*	0	*	*	*	0	0	*	0	*	*
Mourning Dove	*	205	*	35+	*	*	11	*	5	*	*	*	4	*	*	*	*	*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	5	0	0	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	14	*	3	0	*	0	*	1	*	*	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Screech Owl	0	3	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	1	0
Great Horned Owl	0	6	*	3+	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Barred Owl	0	2	*	0	*	*	0	*	2	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	4	0
Long-eared Owl	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whip-poor-will	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	1	0
Nighthawk	*	9	*	0	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Chimney Swift	*	1100	*	37+	*	*	1	*	16	*	*	*	10	*	*	*	*	*
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	*	67	*	4+	*	*	2	*	13	*	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	*	46	*	7+	*	*	5	*	2	*	*	*	5	*	0	0	*	0
Yellow-shafted Flicker	*	163	*	30+	*	*	6	*	13	*	*	*	30	*	*	*	*	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pileated Woodpecker	0	9	*	*	*	*	0	*	4	*	*	*	1	*	0	0	1	0
Red-bellied Woodpecker	0	6	*	10+	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Red-headed Woodpecker	*	13	*	1+	*	*	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*	11	*	0	*	*	2	*	2	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0
Hairy Woodpecker	*	98	*	5+	*	*	2	*	5	*	*	*	1	*	0	*	*	*
Downy Woodpecker	*	109	*	20+	*	*	6	*	7	*	*	*	5	*	*	*	*	*
Eastern Kingbird	*	186	*	16+	*	*	3	*	9	*	*	*	15	*	*	*	*	*
Great Crested Flycatcher	*	54	*	5+	*	*	3	*	6	*	*	*	6	*	0	*	*	*
Phoebe	*	186	*	19	*	*	6	*	15	*	*	*	12	*	0	0	*	0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	2	0
Acadian Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willow Flycatcher	] *	0	*	2+	*	*	0	] *	0	] *	] *	] *	0	] *	0	0	0	0
Alder Flycatcher		4	*	0	*	*	0		0				0		0	0	0	0
Least Flycatcher	*	53	*	2+	*	*	0	*	6	*	*	*	9	*	*	*	*	0
Wood Pewee	*	28	*	6+	*	*	0	*	3	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	*	*
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horned Lark	*	24	*	*	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0
Tree Swallow	*	313	*	185+	*	*	14	*	74	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0
Bank Swallow	*	122	*	127	*	*	0	*	2	*	*	*	25	*	0	0	*	0
Rough-winged Swallow	*	31	*	6+	*	*	2	*	4	*	*	*	2	*	0	0	0	0
Barn Swallow	*	962	*	122+	*	*	31	*	88	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0
Cliff Swallow	0	90	*	*	*	*	0	*	1	*	*	*	20	*	0	0	1	0
Purple Martin	*	318	*	81+	*	*	0	0	17	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	3	0
Blue Jay	*	608	*	34+	*	*	16	*	28	*	*	*	30	*	*	*	*	*
Common Crow	*	674	*	42+	*	*	17	*	18	*	*	*	15	*	*	*	*	*
Fish Crow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	0	*	0	*	2	*
Black-capped Chickadee	*	482	*	35+	*	*	18	*	23	*	*	*	10	*	0	*	*	*
Tufted Titmouse	0	1	*	3	*	*	0	*	0	*	*	*	2	*	0	*	*	*
White-br. Nuthatch	*	170	*	10+	*	*	3	*	6	*	*	*	5	*	0	*	*	*
Red-br. Nuthatch	0	5	*	*	*	*	0	*	10	*	*	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Brown Creeper	0	11	*	2	*	*	1	*	2	*	*	*	1	0	0	0	*	0
House Wren	*	225	*	48+	*	*	3	*	15	*	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*
Winter Wren	0	8	*	0	*	*	6	*	6	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	0
Carolina Wren	0	2	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	1	0
Long-billed Marsh Wren	0	0	*	3	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	*	0
Mockingbird	0	0	*	5+	*	*	0	*	1	*	0	*	3	*	*	*	*	*
Gray Catbird	*	274	*	100+	*	*	1	*	10	*	*	*	9	*	*	*	*	*
Brown Thrasher	*	57	*	7+	*	*	1	*	9	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Robin	* 2330		* 158+	*	*	*	36	*	71	*	*	*	40	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Thrush	* 125		* 28+	*	*	*	6	*	8	*	*	*	12	*	*	*	*	*
Hermit Thrush	0 18		* *	*	*	*	0	*	1	*	*	0	1	*	*	*	0	0
Swainson's Thrush	* 1		* 5+	*	*	*	0	*	1	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	*
Gray-cheeked Thrush	* 2		* 1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	1	0
Veery	* 15		* 2+	*	*	*	1	*	4	*	*	*	4	*	0	*	*	*
Eastern Bluebird	0 57		* 6+	*	*	*	0	*	5	*	*	*	2	*	0	0	2	0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	* 0		* 0	*	*	0	0	*	0	*	*	*	10	*	*	*	1	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	* 15		0 *	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	* 12		* *	*	*	1	*	4	*	*	0	4	*	0	*	0	0	0
Water Pipit	0 6		* 0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar Waxwing	* 60		* *	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0
Loggerhead Shrike	0 0		0 0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Starling	* 1356		* 600+	*	*	30	*	198	*	*	*	40	*	*	*	*	*	*
White-eyed Vireo	* 0		0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	3	0
Yellow-throated Vireo	0 1		* 0	*	*	0	0	*	0	*	*	*	6	*	*	*	*	0
Solitary Vireo	* 5		* *	*	*	0	*	3	*	0	0	1	0	*	*	*	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	* 104		* 19+	*	*	0	*	3	*	0	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Philadelphia Vireo	* 4		* 5+	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0
Warbling Vireo	* 10		* 17+	*	*	0	*	5	*	*	*	3	*	*	0	*	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler	* 4		* 1	*	*	0	*	3	*	*	*	15	*	*	*	*	*	0
Prothonotary Warbler	* 1		* 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worm-eating Warbler	0 0		* 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	0	*	0	0	1	*
Golden-winged Warbler	0 3		* 0	*	*	0	*	0	*	*	*	6	*	*	0	0	5	*
Blue-winged Warbler	* 34		* 1	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	6	*	0	*	*	0
Brewster's Warbler	0 1		0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee Warbler	* 10		* 1+	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	*	*
Orange-crowned Warbler	0 0		0 *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	* 22		* 2	*	*	0	*	8	*	*	*	4	*	0	*	1	0	0
Northern Parula Warbler	0 0		* 0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	10	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yellow Warbler	* 373		* 107+	*	*	5	*	13	*	*	*	30	*	*	*	*	*	*
Magnolia Warbler	* 41		* 6+	*	*	0	*	3	*	*	*	4	*	0	*	*	*	*
Cape May Warbler	* 33		* 5+	*	*	0	*	4	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	2	0
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	* 1		* 4	*	*	3	*	3	*	*	*	8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yellow-rumped Warbler	* 81		* 19+	*	*	10	*	14	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Black-thr. Green Warbler	* 46		* 5+	*	*	4	*	5	*	*	*	12	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cerulean Warbler	0 0		* 1	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0	0	1	*
Blackburnian Warbler	* 37		* 16+	*	*	4	*	5	*	0	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*

[illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
White-winged Crossbill	0	1	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rufous-sided Towhee	*	265	*	11+	*	*	3	*	4	*	*	*	25	*	*	*	*	*
Savannah Sparrow	*	45	*	4+	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	5	*	*	*	*	0
Grasshopper Sparrow	0	4	*	*	*	*	0	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	2	0
Henslow's Sparrow	*	2	*	0	*	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0
Seaside Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	*	0
Vesper Sparrow	*	32	*	3	*	0	2	*	1	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dark-eyed Junco	0	40	*	*	*	*	10	*	2	*	*	0	3	*	0	*	0	0
Tree Sparrow	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chipping Sparrow	*	527	*	42+	*	*	12	*	30	*	*	*	60	*	*	*	*	0
Field Sparrow	*	212	*	54+	*	*	9	*	4	*	*	*	30	*	0	*	*	0
White-crowned Sparrow	*	86	*	5+	*	*	7	*	12	0	*	*	20	*	0	*	2	0
White-throated Sparrow	*	41	*	*	*	*	7	*	15	*	*	*	25	*	*	*	*	*
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	*	16	*	7	*	*	0	*	0	*	*	*	4	*	*	*	*	0
Song Sparrow	*	893	*	147+	*	*	11	*	17	*	*	*	30	*	*	*	*	0
Total No. of Species	125	154	192	149	184	137	76	130	98	155	94	153	105	148	90	120	173	63

\* Reported but no numbers given

# SUMMARY MINUTES OF 27th ANNUAL MEETING OF FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS FREDONIA, N. Y. — OCTOBER 18 & 19, 1974

Twenty-nine (of 39) member clubs were represented by delegates to the Council meeting which met to conduct business on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, October 18 and 19. Council was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Friday.

*Minutes of 1973 meeting* were accepted as published in the January 1974 *Kingbird*.

*Membership Committee* — The High Peaks Audubon Society of Essex County was accepted as a member club. Sixty-two new individual members were voted into membership (54 regular annual, 4 student, 1 sustaining and 3 reinstated). Current total of individual members is 414.

*Treasurer's Report* — The Treasurer, Stephen Dempsey, reported 1973 income of \$4,346.31 and expenses of \$3,701.15 for a net gain of \$645.16. He indicated balances of \$1,038.95 and \$1,150.14 in the Hawk Nesting and John J. Elliott Memorial Funds respectively. The auditors reported they had found the accounts all in order and the Treasurer's report was accepted.

*Hawk Fund* — It was agreed that the possibility of using this fund for another purpose than the original one should be explored with the donor.

*Elliott Memorial Fund* — It was agreed that the committee charged with making this award should be reactivated.

*Savings Accounts* — The Board of Directors was asked to recommend a course of action which will assure the highest possible interest return without jeopardizing freedom of use of the money.

*Waterfowl Count Committee Report* — The Chairman, David Peakall, sent a written report for reading into the record. (A detailed report of the 1974 count appeared in the October 1974 *Kingbird*.) Dr. Peakall recommended that the best state coverage could be obtained by combining the Federation ground count with aerial coverage off Long Island — aerial count for rest of state could be abandoned. Since Dr. Peakall is leaving New York a new chairman for the count has been appointed, Douglas Auer of Ithaca.

*Bibliography Committee* — Chairman Sally Spofford submitted a written report for the record. The Bibliography of New York State Ornithology for 1972 has been completed and submitted to the *Kingbird* for publication. Bibliography for 1973 is under way.

*Area Representatives Reports* — Representatives for Areas 1, 2, 3 & 5 gave personal reports on visits to clubs in their areas. No reports from the other four areas.

*By-laws Committee* — Chairman Sloss presented for action several proposed changes in the by-laws which had been circulated prior to the meeting to all club presidents and delegates.

All changes were approved as presented. They provide for:

1. Payment of dues in first year of membership one month after notice of acceptance as an individual member.
2. A new schedule of dues as follows:

Annual member	— \$	8.00
Family membership	—	10.00
Supporting member	—	15.00
Life member	—	150.00 (no further dues)
Patrons	—	500.00 (no further dues)
Founders	—	1000.00 (no further dues)
Student member	—	3.00

3. Giving the Membership Committee the power to approve applications for individual membership and to grant provisional membership to applicant clubs, pending approval of the Council of Delegates at the next annual meeting.
4. Termination of membership if dues in default have not been paid within 90 days after written notice.
5. Determination of the date and place of the annual meeting by the Executive Committee rather than the Council of Delegates.
6. Establishment of an Executive Committee of 15 members and elimination of the Program Committee.
7. Expansion of Article 9 in order to preserve and emphasize the Federation's tax-exempt status.

(Since the meeting the By-laws changes have been approved by more than the required two-thirds of the member clubs.)

*Finance Committee* – Chairman Dorothy McIlroy presented a 1975 budget showing prospective income of \$4,250 - \$4,750 and expenses of \$4,275 - \$4,475.

*New York Birders* – This Federation newsletter has a circulation of over 450 copies at a cost of about \$90 per issue. Delegate Marada Johnson expressed the consensus of all present that *New York Birders* is a commendable Federation activity and an important means of bringing the Federation into closer contact with its membership.

*Kingbird* – Dr. Dittich reported a total circulation for the *Kingbird* of 568 copies distributed as follows: Individual members—453, member clubs—39, subscriptions—44, exchanges—14, complimentary—18. Editor Taylor reported that the delays in *Kingbird* publication are a combination of his own and the printers problems. He appealed for articles which do not need to be particularly scientific—interesting observations of birds are welcomed. Dr. Meade announced that Robert Smart of Millbrook, N.Y. is taking over "Highlights of the Season" from "Fritz" Scheider.

*Publications and Research Committee* – Chairman Arbib offered a series of suggestions, derived from Board of Director's meeting discussions, of Federation activities which would increase the Federation's value to its clubs and members. They were: 1) brochure on "How to Start a Bird Club;" 2) brochure on projects and programs for bird clubs; 3) Conservation Manual; 4) speakers list; 5) brochure on "Where to Bird in New York State;" 6) a list of birding consultants and hosts; 7) pelagic, spring migration and other types of statewide counts.

*Nominating Committee* – Chairman Borko presented the 1974 officers for re-election for 1975. The Nominating Committee for 1975 was elected—Martin Borko, Chairman; Edgar Reilly, William Vaughan and Robert Arbib.

1975 *Auditing Committee* consisting of Barbara Spencer and Irving Cantor was elected.

*Publicity Committee* – Maxwell Wheat reported on releases regarding the annual meeting which were used by a number of newspapers and club newsletters.

*Conservation Committee* – The resignation of Maxwell Wheat was accepted with regrets and an expression of appreciation.

*Conservation Policies* – President Meade presented a statement of guidelines for the Federation's conservation activities. This is intended to provide a basis for discussion and development. No action was taken but the general opinion was expressed that the suggested guidelines are valid and worthy of study.

*Resolutions* – Dr. Edgar Reilly presented the following two resolutions which were voted upon separately and overwhelmingly approved.

No. 1 RESOLVED – The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is opposed to the legalizing of the practice of falconry as exemplified in the taking of wild raptors (*Falconiformes* and *Strigiformes*) for training to pursue and capture wild birds and mammals,

and for engaging in the sport of falconry in any form. For that reason we urge the repeal of the present enabling falconry laws in New York State.

No. 2 RESOLVED – That the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is not opposed to, and urges the retention of the present law(s) which provide for the taking of wild raptors for purposes of research and reproduction programs.

Mr. John M. C. Peterson of High Peaks Audubon Society presented the following resolution which was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED – The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs stands opposed to the open season for hunting of the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park where the Common Raven is re-establishing itself as a limited breeding species. The strong possibility for confusion in the field identification of these species could adversely affect the precarious status of the Raven, a rare bird in New York State.

*1975 Annual Meeting* – Dr. Meade announced that the Delaware-Otsego Bird Club will be the host for the 1975 annual meeting in Oneonta on Sept. 26-28. No invitation had yet been received for the 1976 meeting.

The Council was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Saturday until Friday afternoon, September 26, 1975.

*Friday evening panel discussion of falconry* – The pros and cons of falconry were discussed in a spirited give and take by Dr. Tom Cade, Professor of Ornithology and Director of Falcon Breeding Program at Cornell; Eric Single of the Society for the Preservation of the Birds of Prey; Robert Arbib, Editor of *American Birds*, National Audubon Society; Dr. Edgar Reilly, New York State Zoologist with Mr. Joseph W. Taylor as moderator.

#### *Saturday, October 19*

In the afternoon nine scientific papers were presented by various members of the Federation. Following this session an innovation for Federation meetings was introduced in the form of identification workshops. One on gulls was presented by Paul DeBenedictis of Syracuse and one on shorebirds by Robert Sundell of Jamestown. These were very well attended and received.

In the evening an enjoyable dinner was held in Cranston Hall with about 100 persons attending. Highlight of the dinner was the announcement of the presentation to the Federation of a check for \$1,000 by one of the Federation's founders and charter members, Mrs. Dayton (Lillian) Stoner for a fund to enable one college student each year to attend the Federation's annual meeting.

Dr. Reilly presented a resolution of thanks and appreciation to the co-host clubs, Lake Erie Bird Club and Jamestown Audubon Society for their hospitality and hard work in organizing the meeting.

Following dinner Captain John Perkins of Conneaut, Ohio, presented his fascinating, informative and thoroughly enjoyable film of his experiences with some of the 253 species of birds that came aboard his ore freighters plying the Great Lakes.

*Field trips* – On Saturday and Sunday field trips were conducted to area birding spots and despite rather unfavorable conditions (snow) at least 55 species were recorded.

Alice D. Jones  
Recording Secretary

*N.B.* The above minutes are a considerably shortened version of the full minutes but they present the essential facts. This was done so as to not use too much space in the *Kingbird*. If anyone desires a copy of the full minutes it can be obtained on request from the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin, 505 Bay Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580.

## FIELD NOTES

**Black Brant at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., New York:** October 5, 1974 marked the arrival of wintering Brant (*Branta bernicla*) at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge with the appearance of 15 birds. By October 14 their numbers had swelled to over 1500 individuals. On this day small flocks of brant were constantly flying back and forth between the west pond and the bay immediately south of the pond. Birds on the pond were resting or drinking, and birds on the bay were feeding on patches of sea lettuce exposed by the low tide. The latter birds were accompanied by many American Wigeons.

Sensing an opportunity, Jim Ash and I positioned ourselves between these constantly shifting brant and began systematically examining every passing flock. As a group of 40 to 50 birds passed over, we simultaneously noted an individual with extensively black underparts. These birds landed in the bay among a large aggregation of brant about 150 yards distant. Training a 20x spotting scope on this flock, we immediately found an individual with a more conspicuous, wider neck mark. As we watched this bird it turned toward us and we saw that a narrower band of white extended around the front of the neck. We followed this bird's movements for nearly an hour and finally it waded into shallow water, exposing its underparts. The underparts were concolor with the neck and upper breast and they were sharply delineated, terminating abruptly at the white undertail coverts. The combination of this bird's concolored underparts and the neck mark confirmed our belief that this was an adult Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*).

The Black Brant was noted occasionally to November 2 at low tide on the flats south of the west pond. Following this date the brant shifted their feeding grounds further west in Jamaica Bay. On November 29 Dr. Paul A. Buckley of the National Park Service reported an adult Black Brant at Floyd Bennett Airfield, an area restricted to the public. Very likely this bird is the same one reported earlier at the Refuge and will winter at Jamaica Bay.

The Black Brant has been recorded on six previous occasions in New York State. John Bull's *Birds of the New York Area* (1964. Harper and Row, New York) cites five Long Island occurrences (date span Oct. 25 - Mar. 31), and one was seen at Niagara Falls November 13, 1949 (verb. comm., John Bull).

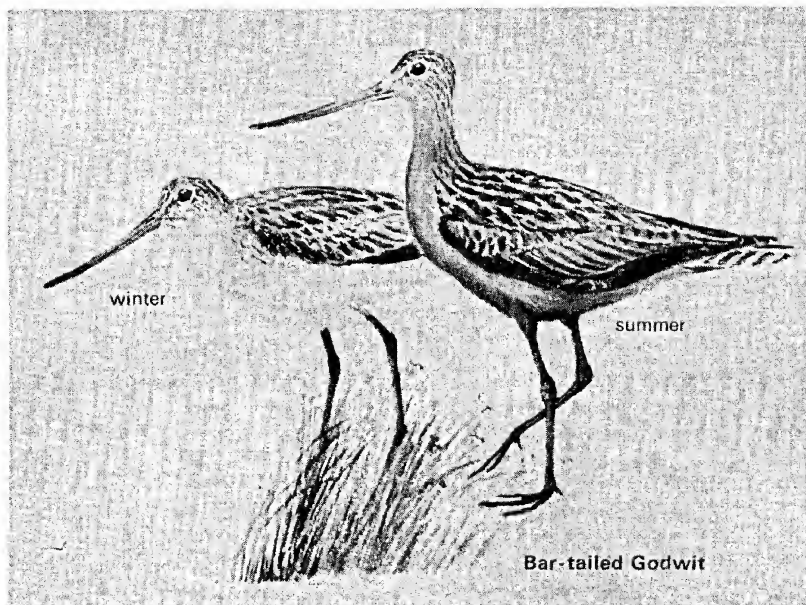
Thomas H. Davis, 9446 85th Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421

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**Addendum to July, 1974, Field Note on King Rail:** In addition to the record of the King Rail reported in this Note, two other Cayuga Lake Basin records have been brought to the editor's attention: April 14, 1970 (*Kingbird*, Vol. XX, No. 3, p. 132) and May 16, 1970 (*Kingbird*, Vol. XX, No. 3, p. 138). JWT

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**Bar-tailed Godwit at Moriches Inlet, Suffolk Co., New York:** On August 17, 1974 the author, with Jim Ash and Paul Lehman, discovered a breeding-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) at East Inlet Island, situated a half mile ENE of Moriches Inlet. We later learned that this bird had been observed earlier in the day at West Inlet Island, a half mile to the west by Lore Schore, Stephen B. Dempsey, Jeannette Doran, Arline Dove, and other participants of Lyman Langdon Audubon Society and North Fork Audubon Society field trips. We independently identified this bird as the above species, based on its godwit size and proportions, dowitcher-like tail pattern, pale wing linings, and clear rufous underparts.



When first observed by Lore Schore *et al.* it was high tide, and the Bar-tailed, 10 Hudsonian Godwits (*L. haemastica*), and a variety of other shorebirds were roosting at the western extremity of West Inlet Island. As the tide ebbed, these birds became active. They preened and fed for a short while, and then all the godwits suddenly took flight to the east.

When I arrived at East Inlet Island the tide was half way out. We first spotted the 10 Hudsonian Godwits sitting together in shallow water preening. One hundred and fifty yards further the Bar-tailed was found probing its bill into wet sand exposed by the tide. It obviously preferred this feeding habitat, for it returned to wet sand each time it was flushed. In sharp contrast, the Hudsonians fed together on exposed mussel beds. Also, the Bar-tailed was very belligerent while feeding; it attacked and chased every shorebird that approached.

The Bar-tailed Godwit was seen again August 18 at East Inlet Island by Michel Kleinbaum, Robert O. Paxton, *et al.* It appeared at the onset of the ebb tide, flying in from the west. The bird was not seen following this date despite much intensive searching.

This is the third occurrence of Bar-tailed Godwit in New York State. Interestingly, the previous two records were also from the vicinity of Moriches Inlet; an "adult of the nominate race collected on Moriches Bay, opposite Mastic, November 15, 1946" (J. Bull, 1964. *Birds of the New York Area*. Harper and Row, New York), and one observed at West Inlet Island, May 10-12, 1971 (Mrs. J. B. Conolly, Jr., 1971. *Kingbird* 21 (3): 142-143).

Thomas H. Davis, 9446 85th Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

When, in a moment of utter weakness, I agreed to write the Highlights of the seasonal reports, I had not realized two very important things. First of all, the complete impossibility of reducing the wealth of information in the various reports to a few comprehensive patterns became obvious. Secondly, I stand in awe of the superb job that Fritz Scheider has done. I will try to maintain his standards although I am sure that my approach will be quite different.

The individual regional reports must speak for themselves. I urge in the strongest possible terms that they be read very carefully. The great danger of summaries is that they are the only part of the records that are read. This would be very unfortunate. The regional editors have done a tremendous job in assembling the information and they deserve to have this material studied carefully. They have all complained about having to cut down their reports because of space limitations and have, therefore, included only the most important items. Many thanks to you all, with the possible exception of one very late reporter. The editors can not get their reports in on time if the field reports are late. Please report as promptly and as fully as possible.

The weather for the period was reported as "nearly average," "nothing spectacular" and "uneventful." Many of the upstate regions commented on early frosts and snow. Region 5 complained about the amount of warm, wet weather with East and Southerly winds resulting in "virtually no birds." The importance of very local conditions is pointed up in the same report when a flight of sparrows was produced by fog conditions. The flight vanished with the fog. It is important to remember that "poor flight conditions" merely mean that the conditions are poor for the *observation* of the flight. The great concentrations of migrants that can make the season so exciting usually depend on adverse conditions causing an interruption of the migration flow. A very cogent comment comes from region 8 about the effect that rainy *weekends* has on the observations. The importance of the "weekend effect" should not be overlooked.

Opinions on the migration varied from good to wretched. Region 3 talks about good shorebirding but region 5 calls the shorebird flight "dismal." Regions 3 and 5 both comment on the poor duck flight while region 6 says that "waterfowl were again in enjoyable numbers." Again notice the contradictory reports on the finch flight.

Regions 3 and 5 mention poor finch flight. Region 6 speaks of an excellent array of finches. Region 7 has Purple Finches in good numbers and region 8 says that no Purple Finches were banded and thinks that "something drastic must have occurred." Region 9 had a large Evening Grosbeak flight and region 10 a "dearth of finches." Again the importance of a careful reading of EACH report is evident.

Some species and species groups are of particular interest. Hudsonian Godwits made a fine showing. The total of 26 on the coast is not exceptional but notice the flock of 37 in region 1. Single birds were also reported in regions 2, 5 and 6. Phalaropes were very well reported inland with all three species reported from regions 1, 2 and 5; Northern and Red from region 6 and Northern from region 3. All three are to be expected on the coast. Note that the Wilson's is only a bird of the flats and the Red was seen only at sea. The Jaeger reports are very interesting. Parasitics were reported from regions 1, 2 and 5 as well as from the coast. The Pomarine in region 2 is good although it is certainly regular on the Great Lakes. The Jaeger counts from the coast are instructive. It is becoming more and more obvious that the Pomarine Jaeger is much commoner at sea and that the Parasitic is the one to be expected along the outer shore. (Where, oh where, are the Long-tails?) Another normally pelagic species was reported inland from four regions—Kittiwake in regions 1, 5, 6 and 9.

It looked like a banner year for Snowy Owls with approximately 37 individuals reported from the state by the end of the period. The flight did not continue, however, and most of the birds soon vanished.

Among the seasonal rarities reported were: Region 1—Eared Grebe, Purple Sandpiper, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler; Region 2—Eared Grebe, Purple Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Bewick's Wren; Region 3—European Wigeon, Brewster's and Connecticut Warblers; Region 5—Gyr Falcon, Whimbrel, Franklin's Gull; Region 6—Spruce Grouse, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hooded Warbler; Region 7—Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Region 8—Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis; Region 9—Great Cormorant, Painted Bunting (Escape ?); Region 10—Black Brant, Bar-tailed Godwit, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Franklin's Gull, etc.

Two records deserve special mention. A Western Grebe was reported in Region 9. There were no verified records for the state although some of the dozen or so sight records are undoubtedly correct. This bird was sighted by two observers and, as far as I know, no photographs were obtained. It can not, therefore, be considered a fully satisfactory record. The acceptance of a record of any great

rarity requires either a specimen, a good, recognizable photograph (not merely a dot in the distance) or a sight record by a NUMBER of competent observers. The case of the Smith's Longspur on Long Island is quite different. The bird was identified in the field by a number of good observers, one of whom had seen the species before. The bird in the fall plumage is relatively obscure, however, and a specimen or photograph of the bird in the hand was absolutely necessary. A picture of the bird in the grass would not have been sufficient. Congratulations!

*Millbrook School, Millbrook, N. Y. 12545*

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"... the fowls of the air ... shall tell thee ..." Today as an ecology-minded people, we heed *Job*, even using *Kingbird* records of avian norm-deviation as prediction of our own destiny.

The season was nearly average as to both temperatures and rainfall. On Sept. 23 the Southern Tier had an early killing frost, and traces of snow appeared Oct. 1. Up to 14 inches fell on Buffalo areas Nov. 15 and by the 30th, inland lakes were lightly frozen.

For the fall foodcrop, there was a fair supply of cherries and beechnuts, excellent hemlock fruit and water beech (*Carpinus*) in Catt Co (SE). Generally, Box Elder, Nannyberry and Wild Grape were abundant.

A weak migration began as 51 birds of 18 species were picked up Aug. 24 and 30 below a tower in T/Pomfret, Chaut Co with Canada Warblers the most common (FR, LBk). TV towers near Bflo killed 44 individuals of 12 species Aug. 28 and 30 with Blackburnian and Canada Warblers in highest numbers (ACK, RDS). Cold fronts set off major movements Sept. 14, 21 and 30, when 722 dead birds of 12 species, including 557 warblers of 8 species, fell below TV towers in S Erie Co (JT, ACK, AS, SW). Counts of the six most common were: 109 Bay-br. Warblers, 105 Ovenbirds, 89 Magnolia Warblers, 43 Red-eyed Vireos, 27 Nashville Warblers and 24 Black-thr. Green Warblers.

Keying in with this data and other observations as good migration periods are banding figures. At MorSom, Sept. 23-28, 258 birds of 45 species, including 70 warblers of 19 species, were banded with highest tallies: 44 Ruby-cr. Kinglets, 30 Swainson's Thrushes, 22 Magnolia Warblers, 21 White-thr. Sparrows, 17 Gray-chk. Thrushes and 10 Golden-cr. Kinglets (DK). At FrSt 569 individuals of 62 species were banded in Sept. through Nov. with highest counts in Sept., which included 29 Magnolia Warblers, 20 Gray Catbirds, 17 Red-eyed Vireos, 14 Black-cap. Chickadees, 10 Com. Yellowthroats and 10 Scarlet Tanagers. Of the 94 total warblers, 19 species were banded in Sept. and 6 in Oct., with Orange-cr. new and only Yellow-rumped increasing the latter month (DC, JC).

Seasonal rarities were: Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, all three Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Monk Parakeet, Barn Owl, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, three Warblers: Prothonotary, Pine and Connecticut, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AC—Allegany Co; AL—Amity Lake; Alf—Alfred; Bflo—Buffalo; BgS—Burgeson Sanctuary; Blm—Belmont; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; RC—BOS Regional Count, Oct. 13; BOSWR—BOS Wildlife Refuge; Catt—Cattaraugus; Cb—Cuba; Chaut—Chautauqua; ErBch—Erie Beach, Ont; Frd—Fredonia; FrSt—Farmersville Station; GI—Grand Island; Hmbg—Hamburg; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; MorSom—T/Morrison, T/Sommerset, near Lyndonville; Nia—Niagara; RosHill—Rose Hill Rd, Ont; SpBr(k)—Spring Brook; T/—Township of; TiBch—Times Beach, Bflo; TNP—Tiff Nature Preserve; Wlsv—Wellsville.

Contributors: Robert Andrie; Eugene Bernard; Cheryl Boise; Elizabeth Brooks; Doris Burton; Lou Burton; Donald Clark; Stephen Eaton; Helen Graves; Aurette Hampton; Milton Hampton; Elizabeth Howden; Morgan Jones; Rhea Keople; Robert Keople; Douglas Kibbe; Harold Mitchell; Michael Pitzrick; Raymond Pitzrick; Vivian Pitzrick; Robert Place (Alf Coop. weather data); Lillian Simons; Robert Sundell.

Observers: Patricia Andrie; Harold Axtell; Rachel Axtell (RAA); Walter Benning; Thomas Bourne; L. Buck (LBK); Richard Byron; Arthur Clark (ACK); Jane Clark; Dorothy Danner; Frances DeGroff; Larry Deverell; J. Gibson; L. Gibson; Harriette Klabunde; Walter Klabunde; Clarence Klingensmith; Erma Larson; Alice McKale; Willard McKale; John Morse; Katherine Palmer; Frances Rew; A. Schaffner; R. D. Semlitsch (RDS); Joseph Thill; Alice Ulrich; Margaret Wendling (MaW); Marie Wendling; S. Wade; Robert Wagner.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: at least 2 over Dunkirk Harbor, Frd Oct. 19 (MJ, WB). Red-necked Grebe: one RC; singles Oct. 22 Wanakah, Nov. 19 Hmbg (TB). *EARED GREBE*: singles Nov. 3 Ft. Erie, Ont (Emerson, Braunberns) and near Chippawa, Ont Nov. 23, 24 (HA, RAA). Double-crested Cormorant: singles: Nov. 3 Chaut L (RS) and Nia Falls, Ont Nov. 23, 24 (Happ, RA). Gr. Blue Heron: 153 RC; 81 Sept. 6 INWR. Great Egret: at INWR: 2 Aug. 18, 7 Sept. 3 - 16, and 2 Sept. 23. Black-cr. Night Heron: max 16 Sept. 12 INWR. Am. Bittern: scarce; 4 RC.

Whistling Swan: 27 RC; 540 Nov. 22 over Chaut L. Canada Goose: 6362 RC; max 2163 Oct. 11 INWR. Brant: only one Nov. 16, 17 TiBch. Snow Goose: one RC; up to 2 seen Oct. 11 (early) through Oct. 25 INWR, Woodlawn.

Movement of Ducks began in late Aug. with major flow Sept. 19-Nov. 22. RC and highest (above 90) max counts were: Mallard: 2708 RC; 356 INWR. Black Duck: 588 RC. Gadwall: 20 RC; 95 INWR. Pintail: 252 RC. Green-wing. Teal: 364 RC. Blue-wing. Teal: 140 RC; 226 INWR. Am. Wigeon: 1777 RC; 1200 INWR. N. Shoveler: 8 RC. Wood Duck: 438 RC. Redhead: 38 RC; 225 Mayville. Ring-necked Duck: 76 RC; 150 Lakewood. Canvasback: 5 RC. Gr. Scaup: 4237 RC; 9000 E end, L Erie. Les. Scaup: 8 RC. Scaup (undiff.): 30 RC; 600 CbL. Com. Goldeneye: one RC; scarce. Bufflehead: 4 RC; 300 Mayville. Oldsquaw: 35 Chaut L. The rare *HARLEQUIN DUCK* appeared Nov. 3-24 with one seen six times, Nia Falls, Ont (AS, ACK) and a female was reported Nov. 16-23 SW of Dunkirk on L Erie (CB). A King Eider occurred at Ft Erie, Ont Nov. 11, 13, 17 (Happ. RA, RW), White-wing. Scoter: 50 RC. Surf Scoter: arr one Oct. 3 Chaut Co. Black Scoter: 3 RC. Ruddy Duck: 45 RC; very few. Hooded Merganser: 5 RC; 400 Mayville. Com. Merganser: 35 RC. Red-br. Merganser: 65 RC.

HAWKS—OWLS: *Hawk Watch*: Sept. 22 Hawk Cliff, Port Stanley, Ont; with optimum viewing, observers' count of raptors was: 5346 birds plus 3 (probably local) Red-t. Hawks. By species there were: 4125 Broad-wng., 685 Sharp-sh., 479 Am. Kestrel, 43 Marsh, 7 Turkey Vulture, 3 Cooper's, 3 Osprey and an imm. Bald Eagle (RA, J Hauser, JT, C and T Andrie).

T. Vulture: 16 RC. *GOSHAWK*: one Sept. 11 T/W Almond, AC (DB, LB). The Sharp-sh. Hawk, Red-t. Hawk and Am. Kestrel are still holding their own, but few Broad-wng. Hawks were seen and Red-sh. Hawk numbers were alarmingly low. Increased Cooper's and Marsh Hawk reports are encouraging. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 RC; 20 sightings in 14

areas. An imm. Bald Eagle was at INWR Aug. 27, Sept. 5-27 (Heck, Olsen). Osprey: 2 RC; singles reported in 7 areas; dep one Oct. 25 Blm. *MERLIN*: one in T/Pomfret, Chaut Co Sept. 23-24 (CB). Ruf. Grouse and Ring-n. Pheasant: scarce. Turkey: 54 RC; nesting success was better than last year's which was unusually poor in Southern Tier (SE). Sora: one, dead by roadside, Alf (EB) in Sept.; one tower-killed Sept. 12 Bflo (ACK). Com. Gallinule: 3 RC; 1000 Oct. 25 Mayville.

A record flock of 37 (!) *HUDSONIAN GODWITS* arrived Aug. 17 TiBch (RB) and another was seen Sept. 5 INWR (Olsen, Heck). The uncommon Willet appeared at TiBch; one Aug. 13; max 5 Sept. 2, 22 (a week late) (HA, RA). Red Knot: arr one Aug. 1 ErBch; dep one Oct. 12 TiBch. A Purple Sandpiper arr early Sept. 27, L Ont. shore near Lyndonville (DK); also one Nov. 7 Athol Springs (TB) and 2 Nov. 17 Nia Falls, Ont (RA). White-rumped Sandpiper: one Aug. 17 TiBch (RA). Baird's Sandpiper: at TiBch: arr one Aug. 7; dep 3 Sept. 27. A *LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* appeared Sept. 16 TiBch (RA, ACK). *WESTERN SANDPIPER*: one Aug. 26-29 ErBch (HA) and one Aug. 28 TiBch (Wilcove, Goodman). Red Phalarope: one Nov. 10 on Nia R (MaW, MW, Avery) and 3 Nov. 23 Nia-on-the-L, Ont (Happ). A single late Wilson's Phalarope was seen Aug. 25-30 TiBch (Wilcove, RW, RA). Northern Phalarope: four sightings: 3, 3, 1, 1 Sept. 6, 14, 15, 19 INWR (JM, HK, WK). Shorebird RC totals were: 2 Semipalmated Plover, 749 Killdeer, 115 Am. Golden Plover, 14 Black-bel. Plover, 15 Am. Woodcock, 11 Com. Snipe, 13 Spot. Sandpiper, 1 Sol. Sandpiper, 110 Gr. Yellowlegs, 7 Les. Yellowlegs, 21 Pect. Sandpiper, 2 Least Sandpiper, 87 Dunlin, 16 Short-bil. Dowitcher, 68 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 22 Sanderling.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr one Sept. 20 Hmbg (TB); 5 Sept. 22 Vineland Sta, Ont (AS, ACK) and one T/Pomfret, Chaut Co, Oct. 6 (CB); dep 3 Nov. 15 Hmbg (RA). Glaucous Gull: 2 Nov. 29 Queenston, Ont. Iceland Gull: singles in 4 areas; arr one Nov. 3 Nia Falls, Ont. Great Black-backed Gull: 63 RC; max and dep 38 Nov. 5 Port Dalhousie, Ont. Herring Gull: 1331 RC. Ring-bil. Gull: 2823 RC; 20,000 Nia Falls-Lewiston Oct. 27. Franklin's Gull: up to 5 reported at 7 locations. Bonaparte's Gull: 2124 RC; 15,000 Oct. 21 Nia R. Little Gull: 2 RC; arr 2 Aug. 27 TiBch; dep 3 Nov. 28 Nia R. *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE*: one Nov. 17, 24 Nia F, Ont (RW). Forster's Tern: at TiBch: one Aug. 27 (HM) and 2 Sept. 2 (AS, ACK). Caspian Tern: many sightings; max 9 Aug. 2 TiBch. *MONK PARAKEET*: one, T/Tonawanda Aug. 20 building nest (RA, HM) which it deserted, disappearing soon after beginning another nearby Aug. 30 (JT).

Barn Owl: one, apparent resident, T/Pomfret, Chaut Co, Sept. 6, 7 and late Oct (CB). Screech Owl: few. Gr. Horn. Owl 16 RC. Snowy Owl: 6 already seen in Lake Plain areas. Barred Owl: 5 RC; scarce. Short-eared Owl: singles: Oct. 9 T/Sheridan, Cahut Co, Oct. 29 INWR and Nov. 22 Hickox Rd, Eden. Saw-whet Owl: one Oct. 16 Scio.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Com. Nighthawk: max 34 Aug. 29 over RosHil. Chimney Swift: max and dep 75 Sept. 22 Nia R. Red-bel. Woodpecker: regularly seen in Genesee Valley, AC, as far north as Blm. Red-head. Woodpecker: 12 reported in 8 areas. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Oct. 18 N Bflo (Wilcove). *NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER*: one Oct. 27 Oakland Rural Cemetery, Youngstown (AM, WM). Yellow-bel. Flycatcher: singles appeared in 4 locations. Olive-sided Flycatcher: dep (late) 2 Oct. 2 Blm (DB, LB). Tufted Titmouse: 9 RC; one to 3 seen in 5 areas. Red-br. Nuthatch: excellent year: 59 RC; over 40 sightings in 19 locations. Winter Wren: 63 RC; arr one Sept. 21 Colden; one to 2 seen in 11 areas (an invasion?) Carolina Wren: 14 RC; still expanding: one to 4 occurred at 19 locations all season. Long-bil. Marsh Wren: only report: 1 RC. Short-bil. Marsh Wren: only one: Sept. 30 T/Hmbg. Mockingbird: 6 RC; very few: singles in 8 locations. Swainson's Thrush: 28 RC; arr one Aug. 21 RosHil. Gray-ch. Thrush: 12 RC. Eastern Bluebird: 68 RC; 44 birds reported by 10 observers; flock of 21 Oct. 8 AL. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: very scarce: arr 2 Aug. 17 SpBrk; dep singles Aug. 25 TNP and INWR. Water Pipit: 475 RC (18 in 1973). Cedar Waxwing: 952 RC (469 in 1973). Northern Shrike: singles showed in 5 areas.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-thr. Vireo: one banded, Sept. FrSt; dep one Sept. 25 SpBrk. Philadelphia Vireo: arr one Aug. 30 RosHil; 8 banded FrSt Sept., Oct.; 17 Sept. 21 Colden; 17 Tower-killed, S Erie Co Sept. 21; dep one Oct. 16 Hmbg. Warblers on RC: 3 Bl.-and-wh., 10 Tennessee, 2 Orange-crn., 17 Nashville, 33 Magnolia, one Cape May, 10 Black-th. Blue, 1085 Yellow-rump., 5 Black-thr. Green, 19 Blackburnian, 2 Chestnut-sid., 5 Bay-br., 11 Blackpoll, one Pine (late), 74 Palm, 2 Ovenbird, one Mourning (late), 6 Com. Yellowthroat, 5 Wilson's and 7 Am. Redstart. Other Warbler sightings of note: one *PROTHONOTARY* Sept. 5 Alma (Deverells); one Golden-wng. Aug. 30 RosHil (HA, RaA); 2 Brewster's (hybrid) Aug. 30 AL (VP); Orange-crn.: singles at 7 locations (+ RC); Pine (late); one Oct. 4 Point Chaut (RS) (+RC); Connecticut: one Sept. 23 Hmbg (TB); and Hooded: singles Sept. 22 Chaut Co (CB) and Sept. 24 Cb (RK, RhK).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 150 Aug. 25 T/Ward. Rusty Blackbird: 2396 RC (604 in 1973). Brown-headed Cowbird: 2062 RC (818 in 1973). Rose-br. Grosbeak: 3 RC; flock of 12 Sept. 22 AL (AH, MH). Evening Grosbeak: arr one Oct. 16 Wlsv; very few. Purple Finch: 50 RC (143 in 1973). Com. Redpoll: only one, Nov. 13 Hmbg. Pine Siskin: 10 RC (268 in 1973); 3 Nov. 10 Queenston. White-wng. Crossbill: only reports: arr very early 4 Sept. 6 and one (feeder) Nov. 29 AL.

*SHARP-TAILED SPARROW*: one killed after striking window Oct. 10 SUNY Campus, Frd (Stanley, Benton). Dark-eyed Junco (sl.-c.): 3040 RC (1160 in 1973). Tree Sparrow: 28 RC; 111 banded Nov., FrSt. Chipping Sparrow: 421 RC; dep 2 Oct. 22 SpBr. Field Sparrow: 165 RC. White-crn. Sparrow: 1208 (327 in 1973). White-thr. Sparrow: 4153 RC (1436 in 1973). Fox Sparrow: 6 RC; scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: 3 RC; one Sept. 21 Colden; singles Sept. 30, Oct. 2 Chaut Co. Song Sparrow: 1687 (950 in 1973). Snow Bunting: arr one Oct. 19 Chaut Co; small numbers through Nov.; max 75 Nov. 20 INWR.

CORRIGENDUM: *The Kingbird* Vol. XXIV No. 3, July 1974 (Region 1): p. 128: add to "Observers:" "JM—John Morse."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thanks again to Lou and Doris Burton for patient help and to the many Contributors reporting early.

Winter reports due Apr. 3. Spring reports due June 3.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Except for an extremely early snowfall which left the ground white for two or three days at the very end of September, our fall weather seemed quite normal. Precipitation was close to average for the season including only a little snow in October and fairly light amounts in November. Foliage came off the trees a bit early probably due to the early cold mentioned above. Lake Ontario dropped quite rapidly after early August and shore birding improved sharply, especially at Braddocks Bay.

The late summer and fall produced excellent birding at times and the general impression that many species enjoyed an unusually successful breeding season. There were also several reports of species rare or erratic in this region. Most of the regular migrants were on time and in good numbers. All in all, while there were many quiet days of mild weather and southerly winds, birding was generally interesting and productive.

Positive Trends: (1) Quite good Loon and Grebe flights. (2) fairly high counts of Whistling Swan, Scoters and Mergansers. (3) fine variety of shorebirds and high numbers of some

species. (4) appearance of both Jaegers. (5) incursions of Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes. (6) high counts of some Warblers in early flight.

Negative Trends: (1) Mediocre movement of most ducks and geese. (2) only 2 reports of Bald Eagle and one of Peregrine Falcon; no Merlins. (3) only one Short-eared Owl. (4) rather late and so far light movement of Bonaparte's Gulls. (5) few reports of certain passerine species—i.e.—Vireos, Thrushes.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Hudsonian Godwit, Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomerine Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Bewick's Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler.

Observers: RB—R. Bebee; MC—Michael Carlson; JCl—Julie Claffey; RC—Roger Clark; J&JC—Jack and Joyce Connor; JC—Jerry Czech; GD—Gertrude Davis; R&FD—Robert and Frank Dobson; RD—Robert Dolan; JE—Joan Esley; JF—John Foster; RG—R. Garnham; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; NH—Norman Henderson; I&KJ—Ian and Kathy Johnson; AK—Allen Kemnitzer; RL—Ray Ladwig; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; JM—J. Madden; PM—Peg Magee; Mob—Many observers; NM—Neil Moon; R&SO—Richard & Steve O'Hara; GP—Glenn Perrigo; NP—Neil Prosser; JS—Jean Shelly; RS—Robert Spahn; AS—Ann Stear; MS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; ST—Steve Taylor; DM&TT—Dan, Michael and Thomas Tetlow; DT—Dave Tremmel; DW—Doris Wilton.

Locations: BB—Braddocks Bay; B—Brighton; C—Carlton (near Point Breeze); CB—Charlotte Beach; ChBl—Chimney Bluffs; CL—Conesus Lake; DEP—Durand Eastman Pk.; EL—East Lakeshore; HB—Hamlin Beach; HL—Hemlock Lake; IBO—Ironduquoit Bay Outlet; IC—Island Cottage; K—Kendall (west of Hamlin Park); MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; SA—Shore Acres; SB—Sodus Bay; W—Webster; WPK—Webster Park; WL—West Lakeshore; LPk—Letchworth Pk.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon—good flight—high count was 350 on Nov. 9, WPK (AK). Red-throated Loon, peak count was 24 on Nov. 19, EL (AK & ST); there were several other reports of 1-3 birds. Red-necked Grebe was widely noted in small numbers in October; the best count was 7 on the 5th at ChBl (M & TT). An Eared Grebe was observed at very close range at WPK on Nov. 7 (AK); this *species*, while *still* rare, has been reported almost annually in recent years.

A flock of 20 Whistling Swan remained at SB for several days in late November (TT *et. al.*); this group included several young birds; an early Swan was seen at CB on Oct. 6 (GOS). The Canada Goose flight seemed less spectacular this year than most recent years. The only sizable Brant flight noted was 449 birds passing SB on Oct. 13 (DM & TT). Unexplained is the appearance of 2 Snow Geese in late August (24th) in K—very early (WCL). A single Ring-necked Duck on Sept. 19, C (WCL) was somewhat early. The best count of Greater Scaup was 5,000 at IBO on Nov. 7 (AK). Some 300 Bufflehead were noted on Nov. 17, WL (R&FD). On Oct. 27 1000+ Oldsquaws flew west past HPk (I & KJ). Over 300 White-winged Scoters were counted near IBO (R & SO) on Nov. 10. An excellent flight of dark-winged Scoters, 6,000+, was observed passing SB on Oct. 13 (DM & TT), but species—Black or Surf—could not be determined. Definite counts of 50 Black and 35 Surf were made at HB on Oct. 19 (GOS). A good count of 25 Hooded Merganser was made at CB on Oct. 30 (NH).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk was reported on 5 Oct. dates, 1-3 birds, the first was on the 25th at W (JC), and on 7 Nov. dates, one bird each, from the 6th to the 28th. There were 17 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk, maximum 2 birds. All of these figures seem to reflect a continued, if slow, upward trend for all accipiters. A good fall flight of 175 Red-tailed Hawks was made on BB on Aug. 22 (NH); several other small flights were noted in late Aug. as usual. The only report of Red-shouldered Hawk this fall was one at HL Sept. 14. An early Rough-legged Hawk was seen on Sept. 1, WL (DW *et. al.*). This was followed by a heavy movement which reached a peak in late Nov. with 16 on the 19th, WL (NH) and 17, EL (M & TT) on the 24th. Two Bald Eagles were seen, 1 on Nov. 18, an adult, at CL (R.

Garnham) and an immature near HPk on Nov. 23 (I & KJ). The last of 9 Osprey reports was Nov. 23 at IB (DT & NM). The only Peregrine Falcon was noted in Paruia on Sept. 22 (J & JC).

Ruffed Grouse were seen twice near SB on Sept. 28 (I & KJ) and Oct. 6 (M & TT). This is one of the few places where this species range reaches right to the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Golden Plover first appeared on Aug. 16 near Fairport, 3 birds (TT) and reached a peak of 71 on Sept. 6 (JCI *et. al.*). No large counts of Black-bellied Plovers came in but like almost all of our regular migrant shorebirds this fall, they were regular in small numbers. A good count of 60 Common Snipe was made at BB on Sept. 28 when conditions for them were excellent (M & TT). Four Whimbrel were noted between Aug. 28 and Sept. 9 (RD *et. al.*), all but one of them were at BB; this is a little better than our normal 1 or 2 reports in late summer. A Hudsonian Godwit obligingly stayed at the East spit of BB from Oct. 13-18 and many people had a chance to observe it very well. (NH & RL *et. al.*). The Red Knot was rather scarce, only a few were noted and 2 was the best count, Aug. 28 BB (JCI *et. al.*). White-rumped Sandpipers on the other hand were widely reported including 3 on Sept. 28 from the unusual location of Lima (JF). Baird's Sandpipers were also regularly observed with a maximum of 3 at BB and also 3 at a small pond in Perinton in late Aug. (DM & TT). Dunlin staged a tremendous flight especially at BB where hundred were present for weeks including a maximum of 900 on Oct. 31 (NH & RL). A Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard at BB Sept. 16, (I & KJ). A late Spotted Sandpiper was still present at the same place on Oct. 23 (NH). Purple Sandpiper was reported several times from Oct. 27 to Nov. 31, with a maximum of 3 birds at CB on the first date (I & KJ). Western Sandpiper peaked at 4 birds in late Aug. at BB (RO *et. al.*) and there were several reports of one to three birds up to Nov. 7 (JS *et. al.*). Northern Phalaropes were reported only 3 times this fall including one inland in Perinton, Sept. 24-26 (MT *et. al.*). The only Red Phalarope was seen at IBO on Nov. 16 (AK) and the only Wilson's Phalarope was reported by (MC) on Aug. 23 at BB. These are only the highlights of a fine shorebird flight, the remnants of which were still present at the beginning of December.

A Parasitic Jaeger was seen on the early date of Aug. 24 on a northeast wind, C (WCL). Three other observations of certain or probable Parasitic Jaegers were also made on Oct. 27 HPk and Nov. 23 BB (I & KJ) and Nov. 24 BB (RS). The only Pomerine Jaeger was observed by (WCL) at HPk on Oct. 6.

The first Glaucous Gull appeared on Nov. 23 at IBO (AK & ST) and the same observers found the first Iceland Gull at Wpk on the same date. Perhaps the best bird of the fall was a fine specimen of the Black-headed Gull first identified by a couple of visiting English birders, Ian and Kathy Johnson, who have also sent in many other fine records. We hope they will stay with us for a long time! This bird has been seen since by Mob and is still present at this writing—mid-December. Up to 4 Little Gulls were present with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls in late Nov. along the lakefront (Mob). The first Little Gull was noted in C on Oct. 18 (WCL). The best count of Bonaparte's Gulls was 600 on Nov. 16 EL (AK); the early flights of this species were low.

Single Forster's Terns were seen on Aug. 19 at BB (NP) and on 3 occasions in Oct. at the same place. Common Tern continued to be scarce all fall. The peak count of Caspian Tern this season was 33 on Sept. 28 on WL (NP). The last report of Black Tern for this region was one on Sept. 15 at BB (I & KJ).

Mourning Doves continue to seem abundant. Very few Cuckoos were noted. The Barn Owl remains unreported this year. Only one Short-eared Owl has been reported so far, Nov. 24 at BB (NP). A Long-eared Owl was well seen near BB in early Nov.—date? (GP fide JC). This fall's first Snowy Owl was reported from CB on Oct. 24 (I & KJ); this is quite an early date for this region; the best one day count so far was five individuals (NH).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawks are apparently breeding more successfully elsewhere than in Rochester. Several small flights were noted, the largest being 100

on Sept. 10 (MC). A late Chimney Swift report was 2 on Oct. 8 (PM *et. al.*) and an extremely late single was also reported—Nov. 8 (NH) but no verification report has been received.

A migrating group of 47 Eastern Kingbirds was counted at MP on Sept. 1 (WL). The same observer also noted an Olive-sided Flycatcher on Sept. 8 in W and another of this species was in B on Sept. 24 (JC). A rather late Crested Flycatcher was seen at SB on Oct. 5 (M & TT).

The largest count of Tree Swallows this fall was 2,000 on WL Sept. 22 (NP). The last Purple Martin report was 3 birds Oct. 8, MB (WCL). The usual few fall Cliff Swallows were seen and most Swallows seemed to depart a bit early this year.

One of the year's best finds was a Bewick's Wren at BB on Sept. 26 and 27 (NH and JS); this is only the 2nd or 3rd known report from this region. The Carolina Wren is still on the upswing with apparent breeding in 3 or 4 locations noted; 3 individuals were seen at IC on Aug. 18 (MC) and 2 were in LP on Nov. 19 (JM & RB). A single Short-billed Marsh Wren appeared in B on Sept. 26 (JCI).

Migrant Thrushes were only poorly reported this season but a nice group of 9 Eastern Bluebirds was seen in Avon on Nov. 23 (RG). A fairly good count of Cedar Waxwing was 200 in DEP on Nov. 10 (R & SO & NP). Northern Shrikes have been widely noted since Nov. The first was an early individual in C on Oct. 14 (WCL). One of the very few Loggerhead Shrikes of the summer was in that same area on Aug. 31 (WCL).

A very high estimate of 75 to 100 thousand Starlings was made by (JC) in W on Nov. 29. These birds seemed to be still migrating rather than a winter roost.

**VIREO-WARBLEDERS:** The best counts of fall warblers were made during a late August flight in B by (JC). Some of the highlights were Black-and-white 25+, Magnolia 25+, Cape May 25+, Blackburnian 25+, Bay-breasted 75+. Other noteworthy records include 1 to 2 Pine Warblers in P Sept. 11-20 (GD), 12 Palm Warblers at BB Sept. 27 (NH), a fairly late Yellow Warbler on Oct. 1 (AS *et. al.*) and an Orange-crowned Warbler at HPk on Oct. 27 (RC *et. al.*). A single Cape May Warbler was in the same place as well. In general, after Sept. 1 there were no very pronounced waves of these migrants reported and they were pretty well gone by the time of our late Sept. cold wave and snowfall except for the usual Yellow-rumped Warblers.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** A late Northern Oriole was in DEP from Nov. 23-28. (RS *et. al.*). A very early Rusty Blackbird was at CB on Aug. 25 (JC). About 275 Rusty Blackbirds were still at IC on Nov. 3 (MD & TT). The last Scarlet Tanager was in W on Oct. 13 (WL & MS).

This fall was rather disappointing for Northern Finches with only Evening Grosbeaks widely noted; the first report was Oct. 24, 6 birds at IC (NH); the single high count was 180 on Nov. 10 (NP), these birds moving W to E along the lakeshore. A few Pine Siskins were also noted as well as 2 White-winged Crossbills on Nov. 9 in DEP (I & KJ).

One rather late White-crowned Sparrow was reported from Greece on Nov. 28 (NP). Four reports of Lincoln's Sparrows came in between Sept. 1 and 24—one bird each (WL *et. al.*). An early Snow Bunting was on the West spit of BB on Oct. 14 (RO); the best count of this species was 300 at SA Nov. 3 & 4 (JE).

265 Carling Rd., Rochester, New York 14610

## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Late August was warm and wet, September cold, October colder and November normal. After early September, rains were frequent but light.

Exposed mudflats at MNWR produced good shorebirding until mid-November. Noteworthy were 11 species still present November 2. More than the usual number of shorebird reports were received from other parts of the Region.

A concentration of migrating passerines occurred at MNWR September 22-24 including 11 species of warblers, 3 of identifiable flycatchers plus Empidonax and 10 of other passerines. This coincides with the biggest single night's TV tower kill at Elmira on the night of September 21-22. WH reports 844 casualties including 22 warbler species, among them the rare Connecticut Warbler, and 11 other passerines. During the season 1200 birds of 45 species were killed for the worst year to date. Betty Strath of Odessa reports an excellent fall warbler migration with 8 species in one tree while MJ at SAD called it "lousy."

Sparrows appeared to move thru early and fast. Few contributors mentioned them. The Rough-legged Hawk incursion is heavy. The only northern finches are a small number of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins. Rarities include Brant, European Wigeon, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Brewster's Warbler and Connecticut Warbler.

Two items of interest were received, with complete verifying details, too late for the summer report. Both sightings were by Kenn Kaufman and Elaine Cook. *Cinnamon Teal*: Male Jul. 21 MNWR. *Lawrence's Warbler*: 1 Jun. 15 and 29 Ellis Hollow Creek Road.

Corrigendum: *Kingbird* XXIV; 3, Jul. 1974, Region 3 report, p. 139 line 5 insert "first spring record for the Region. *RUFF*: 1 May 11 MNWR (WB)" between "MNWR (WB)" and "a very buffy Individual."

Abbreviations: arr—arrival date; Cay—Cayuga; C Spa—Clifton Springs; Cly—Clyde; Co—County; dep—departure date; EL—Elmira; Ith—Ithaca; JP—Junius Ponds; KP—Keuka Park; L—Lake; LOS—reported at Laboratory of Ornithology Seminars; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; WD—Waterloo Dump; WG—Watkins Glen; \* verification report filed.

Contributors and area compilers: Walter Benning; Jack Brubaker (WG); Robert Gustafson (MNWR); Frank Guthrie (KP); Wilfred Howell; Morgan Jones (SAD); Richard and Sally Jorgensen; Elaine Kibbe (Ith); Thomas Riley; Jim and Judy Stewart; Jayson Walker (Waterloo); Donald and Jeffery Walters; Mary Welles (EI).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 3 Oct. 31 Waneta-Lamoka Lakes; several Nov. reports Sen L; max 7 Nov. 1. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Waneta L. Horned Grebe: few on Sen L. Pied-billed Grebe: max 80 Oct. MNWR. Great Blue Heron: max 200 Sept. MNWR. Green Heron: max 40 Aug. MNWR; scattered reports elsewhere. Great Egret: 1 Aug. 22 WG; max 8 Aug. 30 MNWR. Least Bittern: 5 Aug. MNWR. American Bittern: max 30 Aug. MNWR; dep Nov. 23 MNWR. Whistling Swan: 1 early Nov. Sen F. Canada Goose: max 23,500 Oct. 19 MNWR; no build up on Sen L; heavy migration Sept. 20, 21, 30 EI. Brant: 3 Oct. 22 Sen L (JB); 8 Oct. 14 Ith (Bob, Lisa Lewis *et. al.*). Snow Goose: arr white morph 2 Sept. 28, blue morph 7 Oct. 2; max both morphs 100 Oct. 19 MNWR. Max duck counts MNWR; Mallard: 28,000 Oct. 28. Black: 4,500 Oct. 15. Gadwall: 4,500 Oct. 19. Pintail: 4,000 Oct. 29. Green-winged Teal: 6,000 Oct. 19. Blue-winged Teal: 2,000 Sept. 30. American Wigeon: 9,000 Oct. 19. Northern Shoveler: 100 Oct. 29. Wood Duck: 3,000 Oct. 19. Redhead: 100 Nov. 25. Ring-necked Duck: 50 Nov. 25. Lesser Scaup: 25 Nov. 25. Bufflehead: 20 Nov. 19. Ruddy Duck 50 Nov. 5. Hooded Merganser: 500 Nov. 25. Common Merganser: 200

Nov. 25. Scattered reports of dabbling ducks from around the Region with Mallards, Blacks and Wood Duck most frequently mentioned. 6 Wood Ducks at C Spa were unusual (DJW). *EUROPEAN WIGEON*: 1 Nov. 9 MNWR (Bob, Lisa Lewis). \* Diving ducks scarce to absent. Redhead: 30 Sept. 8 MNWR early; 50 Nov. 29 Sen L. Canvasback: 200 Nov. 2 MNWR. Scaup: few. Common Goldeneye: no reports. Bufflehead: 30 Nov. 29 Sen L. Oldsquaw: 14 Nov. 2 SAD; 1 Nov. 7 MNWR. White-winged Scoter: 1 Nov. 14 MNWR. Red-breasted Merganser: LOS Oct. 7.

**HAWKS—OWLS**: Turkey Vulture: max 7 Sept. 15 Cly. Goshawk: 1 Nov. 23 MNWR; Schy Co Oct. 25; Ith Nov. 17. Cooper's Hawk: reported Montour Falls, Odessa, Cly Nov. 4, Schy Co, SAD Nov. 2. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Nov. 24 Ith. Broad-winged Hawk: Sept. 6 Texas Hollow Sanctuary. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 Oct. 25 MNWR; 24 reports in all. Bald Eagle: 1 imm 1 ad MNWR thru Sept. Marsh Hawk: max 3 Aug. MNWR; 1 Oct. 23 SAD; 3 Schy Co; 1 Sen F Oct. Osprey: 2 Sept. 4 MNWR. Ruffed Grouse: increasing Schy Co. Ring-necked Pheasant: reported only from Sen Co. Turkey: 5 Nov. 12 Hector (Gary Antinelli fide MJ). Sora Rail: 30 Aug. MNWR. Common Gallinule: max 24 Sept. 18 MNWR very low; dep 1 Nov. 3 WD late. American Coot: max 3,000 Oct. 11 MNWR.

Semipalmated Plover: max 12 Aug. 21 MNWR. Killdeer: max 56 Nov. 2 MNWR; 40 late Aug. Sen F; 50 Oct. 31-Nov. 1 WG. American Golden Plover: up to 25 late Aug. thru Oct. 4 Horseheads; 2 Nov. 2 MNWR. Black-bellied Plover: 2 Aug. 21 MNWR; 15 Aug. 29 Horseheads. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Oct. 30-Nov. 1 WG. Common Snipe: max 28 Sept. 2 MNWR. Upland Plover: LOS Sept. 30 (Tom Howe) late. Spotted Sandpiper: max 15 MNWR. Solitary Sandpiper: max 8 Aug. 11 WD; 3 Aug. 29 Schy Co; 2 late Aug. Sen F. Greater Yellowlegs: max 22 Aug. 28 MNWR. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 75 Aug. 21 MNWR & WD. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 41 Oct. 4 WD. White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 Aug. 19 MNWR. Baird's Sandpiper: 1 Oct. 12, 1 Nov. 2 MNWR. Least Sandpiper: max 6 Sept. 15 MNWR. Dunlin: max 110 Oct. 16 El; 36 Oct. 16 WG; 80 Oct. 17 MNWR; 40 Oct. 20 WD. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 25 Sept. 7; dep 2 Nov. 14 MNWR. Long-billed Dowitcher: 1-6 Sept. 15-Oct. 25 MNWR. Stilt Sandpiper: max 42 Aug. 15; dep 5 Nov. 2 MNWR late. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 40 Aug. 28 Savannah mucklands. Western Sandpiper: 1 Aug. 28 WG (JB); 1 Oct. 2 Meyers Point Cay L (D Kibbe). *BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER*: 1 Aug. 29 Horseheads (WH, MW et. al.)\*. Sanderling: 1 Nov. 2 MNWR. Wilson's Phalarope: 1-3 thru Sept. 15 MNWR. Northern Phalarope: 1-4 thru Sept. 24 MNWR. *GLAUCOUS GULL*: 1 Nov. 2-7 MNWR (WB)\* early. Great Black-backed Gull: LOS Sept. 30 on; 1 Oct. 17 WG first in 2 years. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Oct. 17 Sen L. Common Tern: 5 Sept. 20 Sen L WG. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sept-Oct. Penn Yan. Black-billed Cuckoo: singles Aug.-Oct. Penn Yan. Great-horned Owl: 15 MNWR; scattered reports other parts of the Region. Snowy Owl: 2 in Nov. south of Penn Yan; 1 Nov. 7 Tompkins-Cortland Co Community College campus (Sue Cardwell fide EK). Possibly the same bird on the Cornell campus Nov. 11-27. Long-eared Owl: 1 Nov. 10 Niles (TB). Short-eared Owl: 1 Nov. 18-19 SAD; 1 Nov. 23 Willard.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING**: Common Nighthawk 2 Aug. 26 KP; numerous during summer but down to 6 by Aug. 25 El. Chimney Swift: 200 Aug. 25 City Hall El; dep 9 Sept. 25 C Spa. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: dep 1 Sept. 30 C Spa. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 reports Schy Co. Eastern Kingbird: LOS Sept. 23. Great Crested Flycatcher: dep Sept. 22 MNWR. Eastern Phoebe: dep Oct. 10 Cly. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles banded by Lerch at Penn Yan in Sept. and Oct. Eastern Wood Pewee: LOS Oct. 7. Horned Lark: 25 mid-Nov. Ovid. Swallows: all species seemed to leave a little early. Common Crow: migratory movement noted Oct. 26-28 MNWR. Tufted Titmouse: 2 at feeders WG. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more reports than last year. Winter Wren: 5 Oct. 1 KP; 1 Nov. 24 WG. Carolina Wren: 1 Oct. 26 Romulus (B. Hilfiker fide MJ); 1 Nov. 17 Ith (JJS); 2 locations Schy Co; 1 KP. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 3 Sept. 5 WG. Brown Thrasher: dep 1 Sept. 22 MNWR. Wood Thrush: LOS Oct. 14. Hermit Thrush: LOS Nov. 11. Swainson's Thrush: mist netted Nov. 10 Ith (Don Rycker fide EK). Gray-cheeked Thrush: TV tower casualty El (WH). Eastern Bluebird: 3 Nov. 13 Ith (JJS); more reports than last year Schy Co; 4 Nov. 4 around nest-

box SAD (MJ); 3 Sept. 5 and 1 Nov. 8 Cly (WB); several LOS reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 Nov. 16 Ith (Bob, Lisa Lewis fide EK)\* very late. Kinglets: both species well reported from mid-Sept. on. Water Pipit: arr Oct. 12 MNWR (G. Meade). Cedar Waxwing: flocks up to 200 Oct.-early Nov. KP. Northern Shrike: 1 Nov. 2 Niles (TR); 1 Nov. 30 SF (RSJ).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** last LOS dates as follows: VIREOS: Yellow-throated: Sept. 30. Solitary: Oct. 14. Red-eyed: Oct. 7. Philadelphia: Sept. 23. Warbling: Sept. 16. **WARBLERS:** Black-and-white: Sept. 30. Tennessee: Oct. 7. Orange-crowned: 8 LOS reports are more than usual; 1 Nov. 5 WG. Nashville: Oct. 14. Northern Parula: Oct. 7. Yellow: Sept. 30. Magnolia: Oct. 14. Cape May: Sept. 30. Black-throated Blue: Oct. 14. Yellow-rumped: down drastically at MNWR both '73 & '74. Lerch banded only ½ as many in '74. Is this species declining? Black-throated Green: Oct. 14. Blackburnian: Oct. 7. Chestnut-sided: Oct. 7. Bay-breasted: Oct. 14. Blackpoll: Oct. 14. Pine: Sept. 23. Palm: Oct. 14. Ovenbird: Sept. 23. Northern Waterthrush: Sept. 9. Mourning: Oct. 2. Common Yellowthroat: Nov. 4. Wilson's: Oct. 2. Canada: Sept. 30. American Redstart: Sept. 30. At Penn Yan Lerch banded the following:

Species	Total	First	Last	Species	Total	First	Last
<b>VIREOS</b>							
Red-eyed	115			Black-throated Green	15	Sept. 8	Oct. 15
Philadelphia	12	Sept. 10	Sept. 26	Blackburnian	14	Aug. 24	Sept. 15
<b>WARBLERS</b>							
Black-and-white	9	Aug. 22	Sept. 19	Chestnut-sided	12		Oct. 1
Golden-winged	3		Sept. 14	Bay-breasted	48	Aug. 25	Sept. 9
Blue-winged	11		Sept. 12	Blackpoll	18	Sept. 7	Oct. 15
Brewster's	1	Aug. 16		Palm	1		Sept. 26
Tennessee	52	Aug. 7	Oct. 8	Ovenbird	31		Oct. 15
Orange-crowned	4	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Northern Waterthrush	9		Sept. 19
Nashville	30	Aug. 21	Oct. 30	Connecticut	1		Sept. 6
Northern Parula	1			Mourning	3		Sept. 26
Yellow	56		Aug. 31	Common Yellowthroat	38		Oct. 6
Magnolia	149	Aug. 23	Oct. 15	Wilson's	15	Aug. 28	Sept. 29
Cape May	18	Aug. 28	Sept. 14	Canada	29		Sept. 29
Black-throated Blue	17	Sept. 6	Oct. 4	Redstart	43		Oct. 1
Yellowrumped	14	Oct. 4	Oct. 29				

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Northern Oriole: dep Sept. 25 Waterloo. Rusty Blackbird: LOS from Oct. 7 on. Scarlet Tanager: LOS Oct. 14. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: LOS Oct. 7. Indigo Bunting: LOS Sept. 30. Evening Grosbeak: LOS Sept. 9 and regularly after mid-Oct. from Ith, El, JP. Purple Finch: scattered reports thruout fall. Tree Sparrow: arr Oct. 27 scattered individuals but few flocks. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Sept. 18 El TV tower kill (WH). Snow Bunting: 1 Nov. 4 MNWR.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

The fall waterfowl migration was, as usual, only sketchily reported, but included a brant, an unusual species in the Region. Broad-winged hawks, usually common, were much below normal numbers but diurnal raptors as a group were otherwise reported in good numbers with some very early rough-legs suggesting a major influx this winter. Screech owls continue their increase and four saw-whets, all caught, are clearly only a small sample of the actual numbers passing through.

A "large warbler migration September 14 to 22" at Delhi was the only general comment about the small land bird migration received. There was a marked shortage of winter finches and for the first time in this writer's memory golden-crowned kinglets seemed to outnumber ruby-crowns in migration. House finches continue their increase in the Triple Cities area and pioneers of the species are showing up in other parts of the Region with some regularity. Mockingbirds, tufted titmice and even Carolina wrens are at least holding their own. A pigeon hawk and five Connecticut warblers were also of interest.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin (C,JB), R. W. Bennett (RB), Margaret Bowman, David Clark, Lynn Clark, Mildred Clark (MC), Gail Corderman (GC), Anna and Marilyn Davis, Warren and Louise Dean (W,LD), Mary Dobinsky (MD), J. Doig, E. Hawken (EH), Larry Holland (LH), Louise Hover, Claude Howard, Morgan Jones, Richard Kaskan (RK), Cindy Kirch, Carol Kull, Florence Linaberry (FL), Margaret and Dwight Lynch (M, DL), Mrs. H. Little, Charles Mallery, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Mary Anne Middleton, Robert Pantle (RP), Mary Sheffield, Elizabeth Washburn, Donald Weber, Cora Wellman, Ruth and Sally White, Kathryn Wilson (KW) and Irene Wright.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 16 on Pepacton Reservoir Oct. 13; Nov. 10, 21 and 28 Whitney Point. Red-necked Grebe: 1 Nov. 17 Arnold Lake, Otsego County (MD, KW). Green Heron: last report Oct. 8. Canada Goose: majority of flights Sept. 22 to Oct. 19, stragglers still present at the end of Nov. Brant: 1 Oct. 24 Whitney Point (RK), good description. Snow Goose: 1 flying with Canadas Oct. 18 SUNY Binghamton (RK); 100 Nov. 7 over Oneonta Reservoir (MD), Redhead: a pair Oct. 14 to 18 on a pond close to SUNY Binghamton campus. Ring-necked Duck: Nov. 9 Crumhorn Lake, Otsego Co. Bufflehead: Oct. 23 Candor; 1 Nov. 7 Emmons, near Oneonta; no others. Oldsquaw: 2 Nov. 3 Whitney Point. Common Scoter: Oct. 27 Oneonta Reservoir; Nov. 9 Crumhorn Lake. Hooded Merganser: 4 Aug. 18 South Otselic Fish Hatchery; 2 Nov. 2 Milford; no others. Common Merganser: Sept. 6 Owego; no more until Oct. 14 Whitney Point.

HAWKS-OWLS: Turkey Vulture: "largest number we have seen during late summer—35 to 50 at a time," Delhi (MC); 3 Oct. 18 Binghamton, the latest date; also reported from Owego and Emmons. Goshawk: Sept. 7 and Nov. 2 south of Binghamton (GC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Tioga Co. reports and 4 Otsego Co. reports. Cooper's Hawk: 1 report each from Tioga and Otsego Cos. Red-tailed Hawk: 62, in family groups, counted along highway from Marathon, Cortland Co., to Cadonia, Delaware Co., about Aug. 30 (LH); numerous other reports throughout period. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Aug. 24, eastern Otsego Co., 3 Tioga Co. reports, the last Oct. 20. Broad-winged Hawk: only 4 reports, all in Sept. Rough-legged Hawk: Sept. 19 (M, DL) and Sept. 24 (C, JB) near Owego, unusually early but no details; next report Oct. 18, then five Nov. reports, one of 3 birds Nov. 30 north of Oneonta. Bald Eagle: 1 adult Aug. 31 near Oneonta and 1 Nov. 29 near Walton; an adult Jul. 29 Cadonia, not previously reported. Marsh Hawk: 3 Tioga Co. and 2 Otsego Co. reports. Osprey: 12 reports from Aug. 20 to Nov. 3, 8 of them in Sept. Merlin: 1 Sept. 12 Vestal (EH), banded. Turkey: 6 Nov. 10, the last of several Tioga Co. reports; 4 Oct. 4 Delhi. Virginia Rail: Oct. 1 Owego, the only report. Common Gallinule: 7 Aug. 31 Norwich; Sept. 13 Owego. Killdeer: Nov. 11 Owego, last date. Common Snipe: Sept. 12 Owego. Spotted Sandpiper: Oct. 19 Oneonta. Solitary Sandpiper: Aug. 24 Norwich, last date. Greater Yellowlegs: Nov. 3 Owego, the only report after mid-Sept. Lesser Yellowlegs: Sept. 19 Owego. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: none reported. Black-billed Cuckoo: Sept. 7 Owego, the last of 3 fall reports. Screech Owl: 16 reports. Horned Owl: common, as usual. Saw-whet Owl: 3 banded Nov. 8 and 9 Vestal (GC); 1 in garage in Endwell during Nov. (RP).

GOATSUCKERS-STARLING: Nighthawk: 35 or more over Endwell Aug. 29; 25 or more Aug. 30 Owego; last date Sept. 12. Red-headed Woodpecker: Sept. 5 Owego. Eastern Kingbird: 10 or more Sept. 21 Emmons, last date. Great Crested Flycatcher: Oct. 5 Owego, the only report after Sept. 15. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Aug. 26 and Sept. 15 Owego; 1 Aug. 31 north of Oneonta; 5 banded Sept. 3 to 18 Vestal. Empidonax (Sp?): 1 Oct. 4 Vestal.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Aug. 24 north of Oneonta. Barn Swallow: Sept. 1 Whitney Point. Tufted Titmouse: 6 Sept. 14 Endwell and regular at at least 2 other Triple Cities feeders; also reported at Owego, East Branch, Delhi and Oneonta. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only 3 reports. Winter Wren: Sept. 8 Owego; Nov. 9 Choconut Center and 8 intervening reports. Carolina Wren: 2 at Apalachin Oct. 13 and 14; 1 Oct. 22 Delhi; during Nov. Vestal. Mockingbird: reports from Owego, Endwell, Choconut Center, Apalachin and Vestal Center. Gray Catbird: Oct. 30 Owego, the last date. Brown Thrasher: Nov. 5 Binghamton. Hermit Thrush: numerous reports from Oct. 8 to Nov. 9, Binghamton and Owego. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Sept. 22, 1 Oct. 1 and 1 Oct. 6 Vestal, all banded. Veery: Oct. 14 Owego, not many. Eastern Bluebird: small flocks reported all during Sept. to Oct. 27, particularly in Tioga and Otsego Cos.; best counts 17 Sept. 29 Owego and 15 Sept. 28 Maryland. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 8 Aug. 31 Portlandville; next reported Oct. 1 Binghamton; unusually numerous until mid-Nov. and present to the end of the period. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sept. 24 Owego to Nov. 10 Vestal; common, although less so than usual. Water Pipit: Oct. 4 to 8 at Owego. over 150 on the 5th. Cedar Waxwing: numerous moderate sized flocks all period throughout the Region; 99 banded Oct. 21 Vestal. Northern Shrike: 1 Oct. 27 Choconut Center; 1 Nov. 28 Binghamton.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: Sept. 26 Delhi. Red-eyed Vireo: Oct. 30 Vestal, banded. Warbling Vireo: Sept. 13 Norwich. Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Sept. 5 Vestal. Blue-winged Warbler: Aug. 26 Chenango Forks; 1 Sept. 16 Delhi. Tennessee Warbler: Aug. 31 to Oct. 16. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 banded Oct. 3 Vestal (EH). Nashville Warbler: Oct. 9 Vestal. Parula Warbler: 2 Oct. 1 Binghamton (RK), the only ones reported all year. Yellow Warbler: Sept. 15 Owego. Magnolia Warbler: 10 Aug. 31 Portlandville; Oct. 5 Owego. Cape May Warbler: 2 Aug. 24 Portlandville; 2 Oct. 7 East Branch; 16 intervening reports. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 Oct. 3 East Branch. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Aug. 24 Portlandville; Oct. 26 Delhi; very numerous Oct. 2 to 17. Blackburnian Warbler: 11 Aug. 31 Portlandville, otherwise none too common; Sept. 30 Owego, the latest report. Bay-breasted Warbler: 2 Aug. 24 Portlandville to Sept. 24 Vestal; 8 to 10 Sept. 5 Oneonta, the best count. Blackpoll Warbler: Sept. 14 Maryland, Otsego Co.; 1 Oct. 29 Vestal, banded—the only report after Oct. 9. Pine Warbler: Sept. 2 Owego (M, DL). Palm Warbler: 10 Oct. 5 Binghamton; 4 Oct. 15 Pepacton Reservoir; no others. Northern Waterthrush: Sept. 17 Vestal. Connecticut Warbler: Aug. 24, Sept. 11 and 20 Owego (M, DL, C, JB); 1 Sept. 30 and 1 Oct. 5 Vestal (EH); the most reports in years. Wilson's Warbler: Oct. 6 Vestal; 6 earlier reports.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: Sept. 6 Owego, Northern Oriole: Sept. 11 Owego. Rusty Blackbird: Sept. 17 Owego; 7 Oct. 13 East Branch. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Oct. 13 East Branch. Evening Grosbeak: Oct. 10 Chenango Forks; 20 Oct. 21 Delancey in Delaware Co.; increasing number of reports all Nov. Purple Finch: usual small numbers all period. House Finch: 1 Nov. 15, 4 Nov. 16 and 1 or 2 the rest of the period. Emmons (MD), good description; regular at the usual 4 Triple Cities locations; at Endwell they "won't tolerate purple finches" and have driven them from feeder area (FL). Common Redpoll: Oct. 24 Owego (RB), the only report. Pine Siskin: Nov. 13 Owego (W, LD), no others. American Goldfinch: fewer than in recent years, but regular. Rufous-sided Towhee: Nov. 5 SUNY Binghamton. Dark-eyed Junco: migrants evident from Oct. 1; still numerous at the end of the period. Tree Sparrow: 4 Oct. 27 Portlandville, the first. Chipping Sparrow: still at Oneonta Nov. 22. White-crowned Sparrow: Sept. 20 Owego; next report Oct. 1; common through Oct. 29. White-throated Sparrow: Sept. 20 Owego; very common through Oct. and a few scattered reports through Nov. Fox Sparrow: Oct. 15 Chenango Forks; Nov. 7 Owego; only 2 other reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: Sept. 22 Owego; Oct. 6 Vestal; Oct. 16 Vestal; Nov. 5 Candor.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Thru the fall a continuing series of warm, wet weather systems, moving from southwest to northeast, brought incessant east or south winds, unseasonably mild weather, many rainy and windy days, and virtually no birds. Day after day birders would record only a skimpy scattering of migrants. The one exception to this was a huge sparrow flight October 13 at Syracuse and Pompey but, as soon as the local fog conditions which produced it dissipated, that flight also vanished. An eight inch snowfall October 3-4 added to the strange fall weather and birding might have been good the day following the storm had the driving not been so absolutely wretched. That particular storm definitely triggered the exodus of many icterids and what few local dabbling ducks were present.

The combination of abundant food, primarily fruit, and the mild weather contributed to the array of November half-hardy species reported and the departure dates for some species (cf. House Wren, warblers) would be more appropriate for Virginia or Arkansas than central New York. Farmland rodents seem very scarce except in isolated patches—farmlands at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, around Oneida, and at Fair Haven—and local mousing raptor distribution is similarly spotty.

Positive features for the fall follow—1) an excellent but brief Brant flight; 2) a fair number of fall raptors; 3) incursions of both Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl; 4) good numbers of later, i.e., October, shorebirds; 5) good tallies of certain flycatchers; 6) continued expansion of Carolina Wren, and, to a lesser degree, of Tufted Titmouse and Mockingbird; 7) excellent fall tallies of House Wren, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, and Cedar Waxwing; 8) high counts in a very few warbler species with an odd array of late departure dates (q.v.); and 9) a tremendous sparrow flight in the first half of October, particularly strong in Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned, White-throated, Field, Swamp, and Song Sparrow.

Negatives for the period abound, including 1) a terrible Canada Goose flight; 2) miserable numbers of virtually all ducks, most notably in Northern Shoveler, all Aythya, all Scoters, and Hooded and Common Mergansers; 3) a paucity of Ruffed Grouse and a continued decline of Ring-necked Pheasant; 4) a dismal early and mid-fall shorebird flight; 5) a paucity of terns; 6) a dearth of Common Nighthawk and most swallows; 7) poor numbers of most vireos and of the majority of warbler species (q.v.); 8) a very poor winter finch flight—small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finches with virtually nothing else to grace the brumal season; and 9) a panregional scarcity of Vesper and Fox Sparrows.

Rarities for the fall are Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, the three species of phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Yellow-breasted Chat, Connecticut Warbler, and Pine Grosbeak.

Initialed observers: GC—G. Church; DWC—D. W. Crumb; PAD—P. A. DeBenedictis; FL—F. LaFrance; JWP—J. W. Propst; B & SP—B. & S. Peebles; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GAS—G. A. Smith.

Areas abbreviated—DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FH—Fair Haven, Cayuga Co.; HIGMA—Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; LSB—Little Sodus Bay; NPT—Northern Pompey Township; Onon L—Onondaga Lake; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Sylvan B or S & VB—Sylvan and Verona Beaches at the eastern end of Oneida Lake; L—lake.

My thanks to D. W. Crumb, P. A. DeBenedictis, F. LaFrance, and J. W. Propst for help in the compilation of this report.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: 11 individuals Oct. 24-Nov. 17, primarily from LOL. Red-necked Grebe: max nine (high for fall) Oct. 27 east end of Oneida L (B. DeSi-

none). Horned Grebe: max 253 Oct. 24 LOL; otherwise scarce.

Black-crowned Night Heron: ten individuals Aug. 15 to Sept. 29, better than average.

Canada Goose: terrible fall flight—max only 1500 Beaver L Nov. 2 (JWP); most counts below 500/day with no big passage flights noted. Brant: 3800 Oct. 13 DH flying over, headed southeast, with none of those thousands settling on the lake; last Nov. 30 two Nine Mile Pt (JWP).

Mallard: max 415 Nov. 16 Woodman's Pond near Eaton (GC); most other counts 10 to 100/day—where are the thousands of a few years ago? Black Duck: scarce—max 168 (very low) Nov. 16 Woodman's Pond (GC); other counts ten to 50/day—very scarce for a duck formerly recorded in the hundreds to thousands. Pintail: max 287 Oct. 2 DH (GAS); otherwise scarce with many observers seeing singles only. Green-winged Teal: max only 25 Oct. 3 SP, SSSP; scarce otherwise (two-eight/day). Blue-winged Teal: 120 Sept. 29 DH (GAS) is the only high count; all other counts below 75/day; strangely, birds present into early Dec. American Wigeon: max 450 Oct. 22 Beaver L (JWP); scarce elsewhere; present to Nov. 30 eight FH (MSR). Northern Shoveler: extremely scarce—max only four Sept. 20 Onon L—total for entire fall only 11 individual birds (16 observers).

Redhead: very scarce—max only 32 Nov. 3 FH plus Beaver L; none reported from Onon L and the Oneida L max is only four Nov. 23 (D. Ackley). Ring-necked Duck: max 214 Nov. 3 FH plus Beaver L (FGS). Canvasback: disastrous—max 46 (miserably low) Nov. 30 FH—almost none from Oneida L where formerly observed in the thousands. Greater Scaup: max 4000 Nov. 7 DH (DWC, FGS); all other counts 40–500/day; no big flocks noted on Oneida L. Common Golden-eye: arr Oct. 3 one SP; max 362 Nov. 7 LOL; like most diving ducks, very scarce on both Onon and Oneida L—? why? Bufflehead: max 260 (way up!) Nov. 7 DH (DWC); scarce otherwise.

The scoter flight was a miserable shadow of former years—max White-winged Scoter 120 Oct. 3 DH and SP, max Surf Scoter 29 Oct. 3. DH and SP, and max Black Scoter 600 Oct. 13 SP, the last mostly adult males; the worst scoter flight in a decade. Ruddy Duck: max 25 Nov. 3 Beaver L; virtually unrecorded elsewhere.

Hooded Merganser: incredibly scarce—usually noted in the low hundreds but max this fall only 32 Nov. 15 LOL (GAS). Red-breasted Merganser: max 3000 Nov. 7 Oswego to SP; virtually none from Oneida or Onon L.

HAWKS—OWLS: Fall hawk tallies from hilltop observations south of Vernon (B and S Peebles) produced some excellent counts but the lack of previous data there precludes comparison; future tallies from that sector would be most appropriate—and appreciated—in view of the current precarious status of many of the eastern raptors. Turkey Vulture: max 12 Sept. 18 SSSP; dep date Oct. 17 one SSSP. Goshawk: rotten fall flight—only seven individuals reported Oct. 4–Nov. 16 (16 observers). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max eight Sept. 22 south of Vernon (B & SP). Cooper's Hawk: total of ten individuals for fall (16 observers).

Red-tailed Hawk: excellent fall flight—max 26 Oct. 13 SP, SSSP with numerous birds (six–12/day) in the fields east of L Ontario and south of Oneida L. Red-shouldered Hawk: max three Oct. 18 south of Vernon (B & SP); however, only seven total for the entire fall. Broad-winged Hawk: max 343 Sept. 16 Hatalla Rd., Oneida (B & SP), the only high count for the fall. Rough-legged Hawk: arr Sept. 14 (very early) one NPT (DWC); a rich fall flight with max 32 Nov. 7 SP, SSSP (DWC, FGS); most common in the open country around Pulaski and Mexico but numerous singles elsewhere. *BALD EAGLE*: only report is an adult Sept. 6 near Waterville (GC).

Harrier: max four each Sept. 19 south of Vernon (B & SP) and Nov. 2 SP, SSSP. *GYRFALCON*: an immature gray phase, close enough to see the bluish feet, Nov. 2 SP dunes (K Kaufman, E Cooke, FGS). No Peregrine or Merlin for the fall—sad. American Kestrel: max 18 Sept. 2 SP, Onon L; present in small numbers elsewhere.

Ruffed Grouse: numbers still way down—max 7 Nov. 9 FH; most tallies only one-two/day. Ring-necked Pheasant: a dying-out exotic—one-nine/day, decreasing everywhere.

Virginia Rail: one persistent to Nov. 30 Eaton (GC). Common Gallinule: still scarce in local marshes—max 22 Sept. 25 DeWitt Marsh (K Coyle) with dep date Oct. 26 one SP.

Rare shorebirds for the fall include *WHIMBREL* one Sept. 9-12 SP (FGS); *HUDSONIAN GODWIT* one Oct. 3 SSSP and one Oct. 26 Green Point SP (both FGS), and single *NORTHERN* and *WILSON'S PHALAROPES* in the first half of Sept. and a single *RED PHALAROPE* from LOL in Nov. Other shorebird data are as follows:

**SHOREBIRDS:** Semipalmated Plover: arr Jul. 11, one Onon L; max 31, Sept. 2 Onon L; dep Oct. 29, one Onon L. Killdeer: max 210, Aug. 4 Mexico Twshp. Golden Plover: arr Aug. 31, five, Mexico Twshp; max 15, Sept. 4 Wampsville; dep Oct. 13, 14 Wampsville. Black-bellied Plover: arr Aug. 23, one, Onon L; max 15, Oct. 17 Port Ontario; dep Nov. 17, one FH. Ruddy Turnstone: arr Jul. 25, four Onon L; max 5, Aug. 24, S & VB; dep Sept. 26, one Sylvan B. Common Snipe: max 70, Oct. 13, SP, SSSP; dep Nov. 9, one SSSP. Upland Sandpiper: max 15, Aug. 4, Cicero. Spotted Sandpiper: max 33, Jul. 12, Onon L; Oct. 8, one Onon L. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Jul. 11, four DeWitt Marsh; max 10, Aug. 25, DeWitt Marsh; dep Oct. 11, one DH. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Jul. 19, one Onon L; max 25, Oct. 26, Port Ontario; dep Nov. 6, two DH. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Jul. 11, 25 Onon L; max 78, Aug. 13, Onon L; dep Nov. 2, one SP. Red Knot: arr Jul. 24, one Onon L; max 2, Aug. 4-Sept. 19, S & VB; dep Sept. 20, two Sylvan B. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Jul. 18, two N Syr; max 90, Oct. 6, Port Ontario; dep Nov. 2, three Port Ontario. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Aug. 25, five Onon L; max 8 Oct. 24-26, SSSP; dep Nov. 2, one SP. Baird's Sandpiper: arr Jul. 17, one Onon L; max 5, Aug. 31 SP; dep Oct. 23, three Onon L. Least Sandpiper: arr Jul. 11, nine Onon L; max 70, Aug. 13 Onon L; dep Nov. 2, one SP. Dunlin: arr Sept. 12, two Onon L; max 250 Oct. 13, SP, SSSP; dep Nov. 20, five Sylvan B. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Jul. 18, two Onon L; max 7, Sept. 2 Onon L; dep Sept. 29, one SSSP. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Jul. 11, one Onon L; max 6, Aug. 13 Onon L; dep Sept. 29, two SSSP. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Jul. 2, one Onon L; max 845, Jul. 25 Onon L; dep Oct. 24, two Onon L. Western Sandpiper: arr Aug. 18, one DeWitt Marsh; max 2, Aug. 24-Sept. 2, Onon L; dep Sept. 4, one Onon L. Sanderling: arr Jul. 19, six Oneida L; max 82, Jul. 27 SP; dep Nov. 2, one SP. Northern Phalarope: arr Aug. 12, one Nine Mile Pt; max one, Aug. 31-Sept. 4, Onon L; dep Sept. 4, one Onon L.

*PARASITIC JAEGER*: an imm Aug. 25 SPI (FGS) is early—no later fall flight detected. *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: a juv Onon L Aug. 10 (PAD) and an imm Sept. 29 SPI (PAD, FGS). *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE*: an imm SPI Nov. 16 (FGS) and either the same or another imm at DH the same date (GAS). Caspian Tern: max 28 Aug. 31 SPI and Onon L; smaller numbers (four-eight/day) thru first half of Sept. at Onon L. Black Tern: very scarce—max a miserable three SPI Aug. 25.

Cuckoos maintained their scarcity of mid-summer with a total of five Yellow-billed Cuckoo and seven Black-billed Cuckoos from 16 observers for all fall.

Snowy Owl: a flight year—arr Nov. 7 one SPI, max three Nov. 9-17 Oswego; total of at least thirteen birds reported by Nov. 30.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS:** Common Nighthawk: max 38 Aug. 29 Syr (JWP) and 40 Sept. 2 Onon L.(GAS); dep date Sept. 14 (very early) one Onon L (G Huggins). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 13 Aug. 31 SP, SSSP; dep date Sept. 29 one SP.

Common Flicker: max 40 Oct. 2 Syr, Pompey and again 40 Oct. 4 Tully (both JWP); many individuals lingering into late Nov. Red-headed Woodpecker: small numbers (two-four/day) at Pompey (FL) and Oswego (C Wernick) but virtually unreported elsewhere. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Sept. 7 (early) one Tully (JWP); max only six (low) Sept. 26 to Oct. 3 SP; dep date Oct. 23 (early) one Syr (F Dittrich).

Eastern Phoebe: max six (low) Oct. 5 NPT (DWC); dep date Oct. 23 two Syr (F Dit-

trich). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max ten Aug. 31 SP, SSSP (FGS); dep date Sept. 30 one NPT (JWP). Willow and Alder Flycatchers: max eight Aug. 30 Tully and two Sept. 8 Syr respectively. Least Flycatcher: max ten Aug. 30 Gatehouse Woods near Tully (JWP); dep date Oct. 3 one SP dunes (FGS). Eastern Wood Pewee: good fall flight—max 32 Sept. 2 SP, SSSP with dep date Oct. 5 two NPT (DWC). Olive-sided Flycatcher: dep date Sept. 29 (very late) one Onon Hill (MSR).

Swallow maxima are Tree Swallow 8000 Sept. 21 SP, Bank Swallow 2000 Aug. 25 SP, Barn Swallow 3075 Aug. 31 SP, Cliff Swallow two (incredibly low) Aug. 12 Nine Mile Pt, and Purple Martin 450 Aug. 31 SP, SSSP—the local swallows have not recovered from recent cold springs as counts for Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows should be in the tens of thousands; dep dates are Tree Swallow Nov. 2 two SP, Bank Swallow Sept. 21 three SPI, Barn Swallow Sept. 29 six SPI, Cliff Swallow Sept. 19 one SP, and Purple Martin Sept. 29 two SPI (virtually all early dep dates.)

Black-capped Chickadee: best local count 75 Oct. 29 NPT (DWC) with better numbers in the Adirondacks—135 Nov. 10 Big Moose area (PAD, P Paquette). Red-breasted Nuthatch: virtually no fall flight—only one—six/day Aug. 20 to Nov. 19; max in Adirondacks, however, was 100 Nov. 10 Big Moose area (PAD, P Paquette) where they were everywhere, almost as common as Black-capped Chickadees—and, if anything, even more excitable.

House Wren: fall max 29 Sept. 8 SP, SSSP, Onon L; dep date Nov. 7 (very late) one NPT (DWC). Winter Wren: arr Sept. 9 one Nine Mile Pt; max 30 Sept. 26, SP, SSSP. Carolina Wren: exploding locally—a dozen different birds reported, primarily from the protected valleys at the Ontario Lakeplain—Alleghany Plateau junction—Syr, Manlius, Pompey, Camillus, E Syr, Chittenango, Oneida, but also from FH (2) and SP dunes (2).

Gray Catbird: max only 25 Sept. 8 SP, SSSP (FGS); last noted Oct. 10 (early) one Beaver L. American Robin: everywhere this fall—counts of 20-30/day in all sectors with max 850 Oct. 27 FH; present in numbers (50-60/day) thru Nov. Hermit Thrush: arr date Aug. 22 (very early) one SSSP; max 30 Oct. 11 DH & SSSP (C & E Farnham) and 27 Oct. 13 NPT (DWC); dep date Nov. 9 (early) one FH. Eastern Bluebird: max 20 Oct. 18 south of Vernon (B & SP); total of 76 reported for fall (16 observers) but sadly most observers saw none.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr date Sept. 5 (very early) one Syr (F Dittrich); max 125 (low) Oct. 11 Nine Mile Pt. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr date Sept. 2 two Sandy Pond dunes; max 150 Oct. 4 SSSP; Nine Mile Pt. Water Pipit: max 150 both Oct. 22 and 25 south of Vernon (B & SP), also 150 Oct. 3 NPT (DWC). Cedar Waxwing: everywhere—max 150 Sept. 19 SP, SSSP but flocks of 40-60/day widely reported.

Northern Shrike: scarce—arr Nov. 9 an adult FH; total individuals for Nov. only seven (16 observers).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: poor flight—arr date Sept. 5 (late) one SP; max six (low) Sept. 21 SP, DH; last noted Nov. 7 (late) one NPT (DWC). Red-eyed Vireo: max 60 Sept. 2 SP, Onon L; dep date Oct. 8 two LOL (DWC).

The warbler flights this fall were rather thin—slightly above average counts were noted in Tennessee, Cape May, Myrtle, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers; particularly low were Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Mourning warblers and Ovenbirds. Rare warblers for the fall include *CONNECTICUT WARBLER* with four singles Sept. 26-Oct. 6 (better than usual), and a *YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT* on Aug. 24 at NPT (DWC), the only fall report.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: fall max 55 (low) Oct. 8 Richland Twpsh. Red-winged Blackbird: max 10,000 Nov. 16 SP; the huge roosts at both HIGMA and at Clay Swamp were apparently not observed this fall. Rusty Blackbird: arr date Sept. 23 (very late) one Syr; Fall max only 200 Oct. 26 SP.

Scarlet Tanager: fall max 20 Aug. 30 Woodmancy Rd, Tully; dep date Oct. 16 (late) one Syr.

Evening Grosbeak: arr Oct. 17 12 NPT (DWC); max 200 Nov. 3 FH, LSB; however, only small flocks noted in the latter half of Nov. Purple Finch: good fall flight—max 33 Oct. 28 NPT; however, 50 still present at Big Moose Nov. 10. House Finch: max 30 at one Syr feeder in Nov. indicates the steady rise in this species locally. *PINE GROSBEAK*: single bird at Big Moose Nov. 10 is the only bird for the season (PAD, P Paquette). American Goldfinch: like Cedar Waxwing, everywhere—flocks of 30-50/day with max 160 Oct. 12 Sterling Twshp; in contrast, however, no Redpolls or Crossbills reported. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 35 Oct. 13 NPT; dep date Oct. 30 (early) one Syr.

Savannah Sparrow: max 43 Sept. 29 SP, SSSP; dep date Oct. 13 (very early) 40 NPT. Grasshopper Sparrow: a single Sept. 18 NPT (JWP) is a rarely observed fall migrant. Vesper Sparrow: incredibly scarce—one-three/day in Oct., the peak flight month; many observers saw none. Dark-eyed Junco: fall max 1500, a whopping count, Oct. 13 NPT; scarce thru latter half of Nov. American Tree Sparrow: arr date Oct. 13 two SP, SSSP; max 110 each NPT and FH both Nov. 3; like Junco, scarce in latter half of Nov. Chipping Sparrow: max 40 each NPT and Syr both on Oct. 13; dep date Nov. 16 (late) one NPT. Field Sparrow: max 200 Oct. 13 NPT in the huge sparrow flight there. White-crowned Sparrow: arr date Sept. 19 one Stone Rd near Mexico; max 1500, a record, in the Oct. 13 sparrow flight in NPT; numerous lesser counts thru Oct. with dep date Oct. 29 (very early) one NPT. White-throated Sparrow: arr date Sept. 1 one SP dunes; max 750 Oct. 13 NPT; small scattered flocks thru Nov. Fox Sparrow: fall flight as bad as the White-crowned Sparrow flight was good—max only two (incredibly low) Oct. 27 NPT; most observers saw none. Lincoln's Sparrow: max four Sept. 18 NPT and again Sept. 22 LOL; dep date Nov. 2 (late, particularly when compared to other migrant sparrows) one Syr (JWP). Swamp Sparrow: heavy fall flight—90 Oct. 8 Richland Twshp and 75 Oct. 13 NPT; many singles lingering into late Nov. Song Sparrow: fall max a stellar 750 Oct. 13 NPT; lesser numbers (50-75/day) thru the remainder of Oct. with small flocks present to late Nov.

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## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Fall of 1974 was a good year for the shorebirder. Lowered Lake Ontario levels provide excellent observations of shorebirds such as Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Hudsonian Godwit.

The uplander was not neglected either with good numbers of raptors including a Golden Eagle. Spruce Grouse and an excellent array of warblers and finches made Fall pass quickly.

Waterfowl were again in enjoyable numbers with Redheads and Canvasbacks being sighted in some localities. Migration was early and rapid once it started.

Indications of winter were again late. However, numbers of northern species moving down and some rather early sightings of them were indicative of perhaps an old fashioned north country winter.

Fruit and nut production in Region were exceptional this year and Mountain Ash trees were as if decorated for Christmas.

Location Abbreviations: BRB—Black River Bay; DH—Dry Hill near Watertown; ED—El-dorado Shores; PP—Point Peninsula; PRWMA—Perch River Wildlife Management Area;

RMP—Robert Moses Pond; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; SB—Sherwins Bay; SLR—St. Lawrence River; WHWMA—Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area.

HB—Hunters Bay Oct. 16-Nov. 23 first half of waterfowl season.

Observers: FC—Frank Clinch, LC—Lee Chamberlaine, RW—Robert and June Walker, JV—Joe VanRiet, mob—multiple observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 4 Oct. 26 PP; 3 Nov. 16 SLR. *RED-NECKED GREBE*: 2 Oct. 9; 1 Nov. 2; 1 Nov. 29 all (JV) SLR. Horned Grebe: maxima 7 Nov. 5 SB (RW). Pied-billed Grebe: still on nest with young Aug. 26 WHWMA (JV). Double-crested Cormorant: 4 Sept. 7 ED; 1 Nov. 11 PP; 2 Nov. 19 ED (RW) late dates. Great Blue Heron: 5 Nov. 11 SB. Green Heron: last date Sept. 22. *GREAT EGRET*: 1 Sept. 4; 2 Sept. 9 WHWMA (JV). Black-crowned Night Heron: maxima 4 Sept. 22 WHWMA.

Canada Goose: peak migration began Oct. 2 thru Oct. 14; most birds moved on thru Region (LC). Snow Goose: 1 Oct. 26 BRB (RW); 1 Nov. 19 PRWMA (LC). Mallard: 785 HB-PRWMA (LC). Black Duck: 222 HB-PRWMA (LC). Black Duck X Mallard hybrid: 1 Nov. 30 with band RMP (JV). Gadwall: 120 Nov. 23 WHWMA (JV); 58 HB-WHWMA (LC); 19 HB-PRWMA. Pintail: 38 HB-PRWMA (LC). Green-winged Teal: 210 HB-PRWMA. Blue-winged Teal: 133 HB-PRWMA. American Wigeon: 73 HB-PRWMA. Northern Shoveler: 19 HB-PRWMA. Wood Duck: 97 HB-PRWMA. Redhead: maxima 260 Nov. 2 RMP (JV); 200 WHWMA (LC). Ring-necked Duck: 440 Nov. 16 RMP; 2 Nov. 30 RMP (JV). Canvasback: 19 Nov. 2 WHWMA; 1 Nov. 16 Henderson Harbor (RW); 2 Nov. 16 WHWMA (JV). Greater Scaup: 1000 Oct. 26 BRB (RW); 7500 Nov. 2 BRB (RW); 4000 Nov. 11 BRB (RW). Lesser Scaup: 1 HB-PRWMA; 3 HB-WHWMA (LC). Common Goldeneye: 43 Nov. 23 RMPD. Bufflehead: 1 Sept. 4 WHWMA; 20 Nov. 2 PP.

Oldsquaw: 1 Oct. 18 WHWMA. White-winged Scoter: 2 HB-WHWMA; 1 Oct. 26 PP. Black Scoter: 1 Nov. 5 & 17 PP (RW); 20 Nov. 19 ED (RW). Ruddy Duck: 1 Nov. 17 SLR (JV). Hooded Merganser: 43 Nov. 2 WHWMA; 67 HB-WHWMA; 65 HB-PRWMA. Common Merganser: 4960 Nov. 27 RMPD (JV); 11 HB-WHWMA.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Sept. 21 Henderson (LC); 1 Oct. 26 DH. Goshawk: 1 Sept. 12 WHWMA; 1 Nov. 17 Massena Dump (JV). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Sept. 15 WHWMA. Cooper's Hawk: 1 Nov. 3 over ball of Starlings near SLR (JV). Red-tailed Hawk: in fairly good numbers through period. Rough-legged Hawk: 2 Oct. 19; 26 Nov. 11 (Kings-ton Club had over 200 on Wolfe Island at about same time) (RW). *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 1 immature bird Oct. 27 2 mi So of Dexter—carefully identified in good light with spotting scope—watched for 10 min while it soared in circles—wind light from No; first report in Jefferson Co since 1915 (RW). Marsh Hawk: maxima 13 Oct. 26 PP. Osprey: 1 Sept. 4; 1 Sept. 21. American Kestrel: numbers fairly high thru period. *SPRUCE GROUSE*: 1 Oct. 26 SE St. Lawrence Co (A. Stevens). Ruffed Grouse: numbers up; 18 Nov. 23 Blake Sanctuary (RW). Gray Partridge: numbers still dropping; 8 Oct. 26 PP; covey of 10 Nov. 17 RMSP (JV). American Coot: 60 ± Nov. 2; 21 Nov. 23 WHWMA.

Semipalmated Plover: 8 Sept. 21. Killdeer: Nov. 2 last date. Golden Plover: 2 Sept. 9; 5 Sept. 21 WHWMA. Black-bellied Plover: 3 Aug. 29 ED; 3 Oct. 27 ED. Ruddy Turnstone: 12 Aug. 25 ED; 1 Sept. 22 ED. Common Snipe: 21 Sept. 4; 33 Sept. 6 WHWMA. *WHIMBREL*: Sept. 5 ED (FC). Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Aug. 24; 1 Sept. 4 WHWMA (JV). Greater Yellowlegs: 1 Oct. 26 SB (RW); 2 Nov. 2 & 5 SB (RW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 Aug. 16; 3 Nov. 2. Red Knot: 1 Sept. 15 ED (RW). Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 Aug. 19; 18 Sept. 21; 13 Nov. 2; in good numbers this year. White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Oct. 16; 8 Oct. 27 ED; 8 Nov. 2 SLR. *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 2 Aug. 17 (JV); 1 Aug. 18; 3 Sept. 9; 1 Sept. 15 ED (RW). Least Sandpiper: 7 Aug. 19; 2 Aug. 24. Dunlin: 1 Sept. 19; 78 Oct. 27 ED (RW); 6 Nov. 11 SB (RW). Short-billed Dowitcher: 6 Aug. 26; 2 Sept. 15; 1 Sept. 22 all ED (RW). *STILT SANDPIPER*: 1 Sept. 5 ED (FC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 Aug. 19. *BUFF-*

**BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 1 Sept. 15 ED (RW). **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** 1 Sept. 22 ED (mob); 6 Nov. 2 SB (mob); 3 Nov. 5 SB (mob); previous record 10-11-70. Sanderling: 1 Sept. 5; maxima 150 Sept. 22 ED. **RED PHALAROPE:** 1 Sept. 19-Sept. 29 SLK (JV). **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** 2 Sept. 5 SLR; 1 present 'til Sept. 21 SLR (JV). Glaucous Gull: 1 adult Oct. 29 early; 1 first year bird Nov. 9; 2 second year birds Nov. 22—all (JV). Iceland Gull: 1 first year bird Nov. 9; 2 first year birds Nov. 23; 1 mature Nov. 23—all (JV). Great Black-backed Gull: 6 Aug. 20; 1 Aug. 29 ED; 13 Nov. 15 PP; 60 Nov. 11 Three Mile Point Chaumont Bay (RW). Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Aug. 20 RMPD; 12 Aug. 25 ED; 54 Aug. 27 RMPD (JV); 6 SB Oct. 26. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** 1 immature Nov. 2; 1 mature Nov. 2; 1 mature Nov. 27 both RMPD (JV). Common Tern: 4 Aug. 25. Caspian Tern: 14 Aug. 25 ED (RW). Mourning Dove: most left by mid-Oct. Screech Owl: 1 Sept. 10; 1 Sept. 11. Great Horned Owl: thru period. Snowy Owl: 1 Nov. 3; 2 Nov. 17 PP; 1 immature Nov. 28—picked up roosting gull and carried it for about 100 ft. before gull escaped (JV).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Chimney Swift: Aug. 23 last date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sept. 25 last date—late. Belted Kingfisher: 1 Nov. 19. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 Oct. 26; 1 Nov. 23. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Sept. 21. Great Crested Flycatcher: Sept. 22 late. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER:** 1 Sept. 7 ED (RW)—first record for ED. Horned Lark: 2 Nov. 28. House Wren: Sept. 30 last date. Winter Wren: Oct. 18 last date. Hermit Thrush: Oct. 18 last date. **GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** 1 Sept. 23 banded (FC). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Sept. 21. Water Pipit: 12 Sept. 15; 50+ Sept. 21 SLR (JV). Cedar Waxwing: in every Mountain Ash—large fruit crop this year (LC). Northern Shrike: Nov. 2 first date—seem to be more this year.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: Aug. 24 last date. Nashville Warbler Sept. 22 last date. Northern Parula: Sept. 26 banded (FC). Yellow Warbler: 1 Sept. 7 ED (RW)—late. Magnolia Warbler: Sept. 30 last date—banded (FC). Black-throated Blue: 1 male Oct. 16 banded—late (FC). Yellow-rumped: 2 Oct. 2 DH; 1 Oct. 21. Black-throated Green: Oct. 6 banded (FC). Chestnut-sided: Sept. 30 banded (FC). Ovenbird: Sept. 28 banded (FC). **HOODED WARBLER:** Sept. 26 (FC). Canada Warbler: Sept. 28 banded (FC)—late. American Redstart: Oct. 6—late.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Red-winged Blackbird: 200 Nov. 19; 1 Nov. 29 SLR. Rusty Blackbird: 1 Nov. 5 DH. Common Grackle: Nov. 28 Massena Dump. Scarlet Tanager Sept. 10 last date. Evening Grosbeak: Oct. 28. Purple Finch: Oct. 27 in flocks Stony Point. Pine Grosbeak: 2 Nov. 10; 1 Nov. 23 Brasher State Forest. Pine Siskin: 30+ Oct. 26; 8 Nov. 9 WHWMA (JV). American Goldfinch: more around later than usual. Dark-eyed Junco: Sept. 28. Tree Sparrow: Oct. 24. Chipping Sparrow: 15 Oct. 5. White-crowned Sparrow: Sept. 22. White-throated Sparrow: 12 Sept. 21; 1 Nov. 9. Fox Sparrow: 1 Nov. 7. Song Sparrow: 2 Nov. 29. Lapland Longspur: 1 Nov. 14-15 on rocks SLR (JV). Snow Bunting: 12 Oct. 18.

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## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

August was somewhat cooler than usual. Heavy rains occurred on the 17th when 1.8 inches fell in 1½ hours and 2 inches in 3½ hours at Ray Brook. September was below normal with 53.9 degree overall mean temperature for Ray Brook weather station; 23 degrees on the 24th was the low for the month. October was colder than usual with 2.3 inches of snow for the month and only 9 days that did not have 32 degree or colder temperatures. This may have promoted the geese to migrate earlier than usual. November was average

with a 34 degree mean temperature and a total of 17.8 inches of snow.

Observers: TB—Tom Barber; JB—Jean Beck; JAB—Jonathan A. Beck; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; DF—Darrell Ford; AG—August Gabel; JH—John Hatt; EH—Elizabeth Hedges; HiPkAu—High Peaks Audubon Society; AJ—Amy Johnson; SJ—Sally Johnson; MK—Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; SMK—S. Marie Kuhnen; TM—Ted Mack; NM—Norman Mason; RM—Ruth Meier; CM—Charles Mitchell; EP—Elizabeth Peterson; JP—John Peterson; WP—William Peterson; HP—Helen Phinney; GR—Gary Randorf; R & MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; CS—Carole Slatkin; LS—Laura Slatkin; PT—Patricia Tabor; JV—Joannes VanRiet.

Abbreviations: Bul—Bulwagga Bay of L Cham; Crn Pt—Crown Point; Fort Cov—Fort Covington; Good—Goodnow Flow, Newcomb; L Cham—Lake Champlain; LL—Long Lake; Mad—Madawaska Club near PS; NW Bay—North West Bay of L Cham; Plat—Plattsburgh; Port H—Port Henry; PS—Paul Smiths; Raq L—Raquette Lake; Sar L—Saranac Lake; Sch L—Schroon Lake; sev—several; Ti—Ticonderoga; Tup L—Tupper Lake; West—Westport; Will—Willsboro; Wilm—Wilmington.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 Aug. 18 LL (R & MS); latest inland report was the adult and immature Sept. 26 Elk L (EP, JP); sev thru period at L Cham. Red-necked Grebe: 5 Oct. 26 West (HiPkAu); 1 Nov. 18 NW Bay (TB, GC, NM); 1 Nov. 22 Port H (JP, PT); 1 Nov. 23 NW Bay (HiPkAu). Horned Grebe: first 2 Oct. 10 West (TB, NM); 20 plus by late Oct. on any bay of L Cham (JP). Pied-billed Grebe: 1 Sept. 26 Sch L (JB); 1 Nov. 3 NW Bay (EP, JP); 1 Nov. 23 Bul (HiPkAu). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Sept. 2 Crn Pt (GR, CS); 6 Sept. 14 Crn Pt (GC). Green Heron: 1 Sept. 8 Essex (EP, JP). Canada Goose: usual summer residents at Tup L (RM); first flight Sept. 3 TL (RM)—three weeks earlier than usual; 9 Sept. 27 Whallon's Bay L Cham (AJ); heavy flights began Oct. 1 thruout region; 12 Nov. 23 NW Bay (HiPkAu) latest. Snow Goose: 12 Oct. 27 Sch L (JAB); 4 Nov. 23 Ti (Janet Cooper). Black Duck: max 30 Sept. 18 LL (R & MS). Ring-necked Duck: 7 arrived Nov. 2 NW Bay (JP, WP, PT). Canvasback: sev Nov. 14-18 NW Bay (DF, JP, PT). Lesser Scaup: max 27 Nov. 27 Sch L (JB); sev Nov. 24 West (GC, PT). Common Goldeneye: flocks of 50-75 Oct. 28 thru period Essex (JP). Bufflehead: first sev Nov. 14 NW Bay (DF, PT). Oldsquaw: 3 Nov. 3 NW Bay (JP). Black Scoter: 1 Oct. 26 & Nov. 23 Bul (HiPkAu). Hooded Merganser: 4 Nov. 23 NW Bay (HiPkAu). Common Merganser: max 54 Sept. 14 Good (TM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Sept. 8 Essex (JP); 1 Oct. 4 West (TB, AG). Goshawk: sev reports including 1 Sept. 22 sparring with a Red-tail Essex (EP). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Sept. 2 Cascade L (TB, NM); 1 Nov. 26 Will (GC). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Sept. 15 Good (TM); 1 Sept. 28 Elk L (EP, JP); 1 Oct. 26 Crn Pt (HiPkAu). Red-tailed Hawk: 8 reported. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Sept. 27 Sch L (JB); 1 Oct. 3 Sch L (JB). Broad-winged Hawk: 4 migrants Sept. 23 Elizabethtown (GC). Rough-legged Hawk: arrived Oct. 25 Essex & West (JP, PT); 7 Nov. 23 Crn Pt (HiPkAu). Bald Eagle: 1 immature Sept. 18 Moriah (NM). Marsh Hawk: 4 Sept. 25 to Oct. 5 West to Essex (HiPkAu). Osprey: 1 Sept. 17 Wilm (JH); 1 Sept. 18 LL (R & MS); 1 Sept. 27 Sch L (JB). Merlin: 1 Nov. 14 Crn Pt bothering a Rough-leg (DF, JP, PT). Ruffed Grouse: good year. American Coot: 3 Nov. 20 West (GC), rare for region. Killdeer: 100 plus Sept. 4 Essex (EP, JP). Golden Plover: first sev Aug. 29 Essex (JP); max 250 Sept. 1 Essex (JP) last 35 Sept. 14 Essex (HiPkAu). Black-bellied Plover: 2 Aug. 29 Essex (JP, SJ); 1 Sept. 4 Essex (HiPkAu), rare for region. Solitary Sandpiper: sev to Sept. 15 Essex & Will (HiPkAu). Greater Yellowlegs: 3 Sept. 3 Good (TM); 3 Sept. 18 LL (R & MS); plus many L Cham (HiPkAu). *DUNLIN*: 1 Nov. 30 West (GC, JP & others) very rare in this region. White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Sept. 29 Plat (Philip H. Warren) full details. *BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER*: 1 with Killdeer and Golden Plover Sept. 8 Essex (EP, JP, SJ), full details, apparently first record for region. Great Black-backed Gull: 1 Oct. 23 to Dec. 1 West (GC, JP). Bonaparte's Gull: max 14 Nov. 14 Bul (DF, JP, PT). Tern sp: 1 Sept. 17 LL (R & MS). Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Sept. 3 & 15 TL (RM). Screech Owl: 1 Sept. 2 Essex (CS). Great Horned Owl: 1 very appropriately on Hallowe'en, Essex (EP, JP). Snowy Owl: 1 Nov. 6 (Norma Thomas).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Chimney Swift: 12 Sept. 14 (AJ, LS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 Aug. 20 Raq L (EH); 1 Sept. 18 Essex (AJ, LS); 1 Sept. 25 (JB). Common Flicker: seemed to be fewer migrants this year. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last 1 Oct. 10 Moriah (TB). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 wandering bird Oct. 24 Essex (JP). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Aug. 29 Essex (JP). One late Empidonax Sept. 29 Essex (JP). Eastern Wood Pewee: latest 1 Sept. 26 West (TB). Tree Swallow: 1 very late Oct. 28 Fort Cov (JV). Barn Swallow: 3 very late Oct. 28 Fort Cov (JV). Gray Jay: 3 Aug. 17 Mad (HiPkAu); 1 Oct. 4 Keene (SMK). Common Raven: max of 3 Cascade L (many). Boreal Chickadee: good numbers. Mockingbird: 1 Nov. 3 Plat (CM). Wood Thrush: last 1 Oct. 13 Elizabethtown (GC). Swainson's Thrush: 1 very late bird Oct. 26 West (HiPkAu). Eastern Bluebird: many reports from many areas; 6 Oct. 21 Peru (CM); max 18 Sept. 30 Moriah Center (HP). A late report of 5 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on Jun. 7 at Chazy (CM); this invasion by a bird alien to our region is unusual; the total number of individuals and total area covered may indicate we will have a breeding record some year. (See *Kingbird* July '74.) Ruby-crowned Kinglet: good numbers, 8 Oct. 4 Sar L (MK). Water Pipit: max 10 Oct. 1 Essex (JP). Cedar Waxwing: numbers began to increase about Aug. 17; max 120 Sch L (JB). Northern Shrike: 1 immature Oct. 31 Elizabethtown (GC); 1 Nov. 15 Sch L (JAB).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: good numbers. Warbling Vireo: 1 Sept. 12 Moriah (HP). Tennessee Warbler: last 1 Sept. 22 Wilm (GR). Magnolia Warbler: last 1 Oct. 6 Keene (SMK). Cape May Warbler: 1 Sept. 26 Elizabethtown (GC). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Nov. 7 Essex (JP). Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 Oct. 6 Keene (SMK). Bay-breasted Warbler: last Sept. 29 Essex (EP). Pine Warbler: 1 Sept. 27 Essex (JP). Palm Warbler: 1 Sept. 22 Elizabethtown (GC). Mourning Warbler: 1 very late Oct. 2 Moriah (TB, NM). American Redstart: late 1 Oct. 18 Elizabethtown (GC).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Cardinal: at least 13, chiefly from L Cham; 2 thru Nov. 7 Sar L (MK); 5 Plat (CM); a few nest each year near L Cham. Evening Grosbeak: max 1000 plus Nov. 6 Sch L (JB). Purple Finch: good numbers 10 Nov. 11 TL (RM). *HOUSE FINCH*: 1 Aug. 16 Moriah (NM, TB) "clearly saw streaks beneath." Pine Grosbeak: 1 Nov. 12 ADK Loj (JP). Pine Siskin: 5 Aug. 20 Raq L (EH); numbers increasing to end of Sept. Red Crossbill: 10 Aug. 15-20 PS (TM). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Sept. 18 LL (R & MS); sev feeder birds L Cham (HiPkAu). Dark-eyed Junco: flocks of migrants in middle of Aug. Tree Sparrow: first 1 Oct. 27 Plat (CM). White-crowned Sparrow: first 2 Sept. 23 Elizabethtown (GC); 11 Oct. 5 Sar L (MK); many Oct. 8 Essex (JP); 1 late bird Nov. 23 Elizabethtown (GC). Fox Sparrow: sev Oct. 4 Keene (SMK). Snow Bunting: 1 Oct. 18 Essex (EP); 1 Oct. 27 Keene (Betsy & Fred McCamic); 20 Oct. 27 Sch L (JB); 25 Nov. 2 West (EP).

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON - MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The fall period was of average temperature but the rainy weekends may have affected our bird sightings. The lack of early snow may also have been a factor in delaying the migration of large numbers of our fall visitors. The banding captures were especially affected with the take at VFWM reduced from the 3 year average of about 1 plus bird/net hour to 0.6 bird/net hour. The total catch of 847 birds of 61 species for 1420 hours showed a substantial loss (RY).

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was an unusual sighting for this area. Records show re-

ports for 1940 and 1952 only. The Glossy Ibis is the same bird as reported in the Summer Report. The 2 Tufted Titmice banded were also unusual. These were only the 3rd and 4th captured at VFWM in 11 years. A notable decline of some species was apparent. The Cedar Waxwings were much scarcer at VFWM this year with the low banding of only 113 indicating the 5th year of decline. Also, the Robins were much reduced with only 8 bandings vs 88 last year. A Warbler wave was reported on Sept. 9 in New Baltimore but the Warbler numbers at VFWM were generally reduced as reported by RY. Not a single Purple Finch was captured at VFWM as compared to last year's 101. "Something drastic must have occurred to, from, or at this species wintering ground. It was apparent in early May that their numbers were noticeably reduced" (RY). There appeared to be a heavy fall flight of Dark-eyed Junco at Jenny Lake with 53 banded vs 24 in 1973 and his yard with 40 banded vs 2 in 1973 but only 1 banded at VFWM on Oct. 12 (RY). The capture of White-throated Sparrows was much reduced from 623 last year to 183 this year at VFWM. Also, the Swamp and Song Sparrows were 75% fewer captures.

Abbreviations: Col Co—Columbia County; EG—East Greenbush; fs—first reported sighting; HR—Hudson River; ls—last reported sighting; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RL—Round Lake; SL—Saratoga Lake; TP—thru period; VFWM—Vischer's Ferry Wildlife Management Area; RY—Robert Yunick.

Correction: The Summer Report should read: Long-billed Marsh Wren: 1 June 8 NE (WG, DA); 5 July 6 Rensselaer (PC). Short-billed Marsh Wren: only report 2 June 15 BBC Duanesburg (WS, DA).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Sept. 22 Queechy Lake; 3 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Pied-billed Grebe: thru Aug.-Oct. Col Co. Great Blue Heron: Aug. 17 VFWM; 1s Oct. 6 Col Co. Green Heron: 1 Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh; Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 1 Nov. 3 NWW. Great Egret: 4 Aug. 18 Coxsackie; 4 Aug. 22 HR. *YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*: 1 juvenile Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh (HNBC). Least Bittern: late Aug. Slingerlands. American Bittern: Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Glossy Ibis: Aug. 26, 29 Slingerlands. Canada Goose: Sept. 30-Nov. Col Co. Snow Goose: Nov. 10 New Baltimore. Blue Goose: 1 with Snow Nov. 10 New Baltimore. Mallard: Aug.-Nov. Col Co. Black Duck: about 20 Schodack Marsh Aug. 17; 6 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Green and Blue-winged Teal: Oct. Col Co; mixed flock of 51 Nov. 10 Coxsackie. Wood Duck: Aug.-Nov. Col Co. Redhead: 3 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Ring-necked Duck: 1 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Canvasback: 6 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Greater Scaup: 5 Oct. 28 Coxsackie. Lesser Scaup: 1 Oct. 28; mixed group of 30 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Common Goldeneye: 50 RL, SL. Bufflehead: 2 Oct. 28 Coxsackie; 7 Nov. 9, RL, SL. Oldsquaw: 2 Nov. 9 RL, SL. White-winged Scoter: 4 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Black Scoter: 1 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Ruddy Duck: 1 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Hooded Merganser: 1 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Red-breasted Merganser: 6 Nov. 9 RL, SL. American Coot: Nov. 16 Col Co.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 2 Sept. 1 New Baltimore; 1s Oct. 20 Col Co. Cooper's Hawk: TP Col Co. Red-tailed Hawk: TP Col Co and EG. Red-shouldered Hawk: Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh. Broad-winged Hawk: Aug.-Sept. and Oct. 20 Col Co. Rough-legged Hawk: fs Oct. 19 Col Co; Oct. 28 Coxsackie. Marsh Hawk: TP Col Co. Osprey: 5-8 early Sept. VFWM; Oct. Col Co. American Kestrel: TP Col Co and EG. Ruffed Grouse: TP Col Co; Nov. 3 NWW. Ring-necked Pheasant: TP Col Co; Aug. 27-Sept. EG. Killdeer: Aug. 31-Oct. EG; Oct. Col Co. American Woodcock: TP Col Co; 1 banded Sept. 6. Common Snipe: Oct. 6, 9 Col Co. Upland Sandpiper: Aug. 10 New Baltimore. Solitary Sandpiper: Sept. Col Co. Least Sandpiper: 2 Aug. 18 Coeymans. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 5 Aug. 22 Coxsackie. Great Black-backed Gull: Aug. 15 HR Col Co. Herring Gull: TP Col Co and EG. Ring-billed Gull: Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh; Nov. 9 RL, SL. Bonaparte's Gull: 3 Aug. 17 Lake George. Mourning Dove: TP. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Aug. 16, 26 Col Co. Black-billed Cuckoo: Sept. 3 Col Co. Screech Owl: Aug. 25-Nov. EG; Oct. Col Co. Great Horned Owl: TP Col Co. Saw-whet Owl: only report 1 banded Oct. 24.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Common Nighthawk: Aug. 25 EG; Sept. 5 Saratoga

Co. Chimney Swift: Aug.-Sept. Col Co, 1s Oct. 2. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Aug.-early Sept. all areas; 44 banded Sept. 6-21. Belted Kingfisher: Aug.-Oct. Col Co. Common Flicker: TP. Pileated Woodpecker: TP Col Co; 2 Nov. 3 NWW. Red-headed Woodpecker: Oct.-Nov. RT 21 S of Mitzeskill. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Sept. 27 Loudonville; Nov. 11 Col Co. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers: TP. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 Nov. 9 just N of Stuyvesant Plaza. Eastern Kingbird: Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Great Crested Flycatcher: Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Eastern Phoebe: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 1s Oct. 20. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 8 banded in Sept. and 1 very late on Oct. 13. Least Flycatcher: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 9 banded in Sept. Eastern Wood Pewee: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 2 banded Oct. 7, 28. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Sept. 1 New Baltimore. Horned Lark: Aug.-Oct. Col Co. Tree Swallow: Aug.-Oct. Col Co, 1s Oct. 20. Bank Swallow: 1s Aug. 17 New Baltimore. Barn Swallow: 1s Sept. 6 Col Co. Boreal Chickadee: only report 1 Sept. 2 Crane Mt. W of Warrensburg (Geoffrey Carlton). Tufted Titmouse: TP Col Co and EG; 2 banded Oct. 26. White-breasted Nuthatch: TP Col Co and EG; 3 Nov. 9 RL, SL. Red-breasted Nuthatch: only report 1 Sept. 27 Loudonville. Brown Creeper: TP Col Co and EG; 4 banded in Oct. House Wren: Aug.-Oct. Col Co; 5 banded in Oct. Winter Wren: fs Oct. 10 Col Co; 16 banded Sept.-Oct. Carolina Wren: feeding young Cowbird Aug. 18 New Baltimore; 1 banded Oct. 12 TP. Col Co. Gray Catbird: Aug.-Oct. Col Co; 113 banded Sept. and early Oct. Brown Thrasher: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 4 banded in Sept. American Robin: TP; 8 banded in Sept.-Oct.; 1s 25 Nov. 3 NWW. Wood Thrush: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 37 banded in Sept.-Oct. Hermit Thrush: 25 banded in Oct.; 2 Nov. 3. NWW. Swainson's Thrush: 35 banded in Sept.-Oct.; 1s Oct. 13 Col Co. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 banded Sept. and 1 Oct. 26. Veery: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 5 banded in Sept. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Sept. 1, 2 Sept. 9 New Baltimore. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Oct. 12 EG; 6 banded in Oct. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 31 banded late Sept. and early Oct.; Oct. 7 Col Co. Water Pipit: flocks up to 100 Oct. 15-Nov. 25 Col Co. Cedar Waxwing: few Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh; 2 banded Sept.; 12 Nov. 3 NWW. Northern Shrike: Nov. 17 New Baltimore; Nov. 19 Col Co. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Oct. 11 Delmar Lab.

**VIREO-WARBLERS:** Red-eyed Vireo: 10 banded in Sept.; 1s Sept. 30 Loudonville. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 banded Oct. 5. Warbling Vireo: Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Black-and-white Warbler: 2 banded in Sept. Tennessee Warbler: 2 banded in Sept. Yellow Warbler: Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Magnolia Warbler: 18 banded Sept.-early Oct. Cape May Warbler: Sept. 1 New Baltimore; 2 banded early Sept. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 11 banded Sept.-Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Aug. 16 Berne; TP Col Co; 10 banded in Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: Sept. 10-30 Loudonville; 1 banded Sept. 14. Blackburnian Warbler: Sept. 9 New Baltimore. Sept. 19 Loudonville. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1s Oct. 14 Col Co. Bay-breasted Warbler: Sept. 1 New Baltimore; 6 banded early Sept. Blackpoll Warbler: 15 banded late Sept. and early Oct.; 1s Oct. 27 New Baltimore. Pine Warbler: Aug.-Oct. Col Co, 1s Oct. 14. Prairie Warbler: Aug. 16 Berne; Oct. 4 Col Co. Ovenbird: Sept. 24 at birdbath Loudonville; 8 banded in Sept. Northern Waterthrush: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 7 banded in Sept. Mourning Warbler: 1 banded Sept. and 1 Oct. 6. Common Yellowthroat: TP; 1s Nov. 3 NWW. Wilson's Warbler: 3 Sept. 1 New Baltimore; 3 banded Sept. 14, 20. Canada Warbler: Aug. 25 Loudonville; 10 banded in Sept. American Redstart: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 10 banded late Sept. and early Oct.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Eastern Meadowlark: TP Col Co. Red-winged Blackbird: TP Col Co; Nov. 3 NWW. Northern Oriole: Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Rusty Blackbird Aug.-Sept. Col Co. Common Grackle and Brown-headed Cowbird: TP. Scarlet Tanager: 1 male Sept. 22 Loudonville; 1 banded Sept. 21. Cardinal: TP. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Aug.-Sept. Col Co; 15 banded Sept. and early Oct. Indigo Bunting: many Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh; 2 banded Sept. 21, 27. Evening Grosbeak: fs Oct. 15 and TP Col Co. Purple Finch: TP; 2 Nov. 3 NWW. House Finch: Aug. 1-Sept. 31 and Nov. 11-30 Rensselaer Co. Pine Siskin: Oct. Col Co; Oct. 12 EG. American Goldfinch: TP; 2 banded Sept. 28; 12 Nov. 3 NWW. Rufous-sided Towhee: TP Col Co; 1 banded Oct. 6. Savannah Sparrow: TP Col Co. Vesper Sparrow: TP. Dark-eyed Junco: fs Oct. 4 yard feeder. Oct. 13-Nov. EG. Tree Sparrow: Oct.-

Nov. Col Co; 4 Nov. 3 NWW. Chipping Sparrow: Aug.-Oct. 20 Col Co. Field Sparrow: Aug.-Oct. Col Co; Nov. 22 EG. White-crowned Sparrow: Oct. Col Co; 1 banded Oct. 12. White-throated Sparrow: TP; 183 banded late Sept.-Oct. Fox Sparrow: fs Oct. 10 Col Co; 1 banded Oct. 26; 1 Nov. 3 NWW. Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Sept. 1 New Baltimore; 6 banded late Sept. and early Oct. Swamp Sparrow: Aug. 17 Schodack Marsh. 17 banded late Sept. and early Oct. Song Sparrow: TP Col Co and EG; 45 banded Sept.-Oct. Snow Bunting: about 25 Oct. 23 Berne; 8 Oct. 26 and 40 Oct. 28 New Baltimore.

151 North Toll St., Scotia, New York 12302

## REGION 9 – DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Due to space limitations imposed upon us due to rising costs, this report has been severely abbreviated. Names of observers are being omitted except in unusual cases. We hope that our local birders will continue to forward their notes to the contributors as usual.

August was near normal in temperature but considerably wetter than last year. Sept. was cooler and wetter than usual, with October being cool and dry. November was close to normal. Killing frosts came in late Sept. but were rarely observed thru the rest of the period.

Bird movements were not spectacular. Geese seemed to be up; most species of hawks were better than normal, but this could be due to more observers in the field. Most passerines were normal with the few exceptions listed in the report.

No reports were received from Orange and Westchester Cos.

Contributors: Robert F. Deed, John C. Orth, Lana Mills, Martin Borko, Fred Hough, Otis Waterman. Abbreviations: HMMW—Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 late date of Nov. 17, Rockland L; sev others earlier dur hawk watches. Horned Grebe: 5 Oct. 13 Rockland L. *WESTERN GREBE*: 1 Oct. 18 L. Tiorati (Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wagner). *GREAT CORMORANT*: 1 imm at Piermont Pier Oct. 16 (Anthony Amos). Double-crested Cormorant: 19 Sept. 14 Piermont Pier. Little Blue Heron: 1 Sept. 24 Roosevelt Cove, Hyde Park. Cattle Egret: 1 dur July thru Aug. 9 at Pok; only 2 other reports of "white herons." Least Bittern: 1 Aug. 19 Moodna Marsh. Canada Goose: very heavy flights late Sept. thru Oct., peak Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Snow Goose: 450 Nov. 9 over West Point. 200 same date just south at Bear Mt. and north over Dutch. Gadwall: always rare, now regular on Rockland L; 2 there Nov. 30; 1 Nov. 9 Millbrook. Pintail: 4 Nov. 9 Lithgow. Wigeon: 13 Nov. 17 Iona Is. Wood Duck: many reports all areas. Redhead: 7 Nov. 23 L. Deforest. Canvasback: 9 Nov. 4 inc to 500 by Nov. 26 at Crugers I. Oldsquaw: 2 males Nov. 23 Kiamesha. Surf Scoter: 1 Oct. 5 Pawling. Ruddy Duck: 8 Oct. 13 Rockland L. Common Merganser: first 4 Nov. 9 Millbrook.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 Nov. 11 Port Jervis, late. Goshawk: many single reports thru region; 19 at HMMW was 1/4 of last year's count and less than 1/5 of 1972's high. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2,528 at HMMW was 1/3 higher than last year. Cooper's Hawk: continues low, but 54 at HMMW was twice the count in 1973. Buteos were generally normal, Red-tails were high at most hawk watches. Rough-leg: 2 Oct. 22 at Mohonk were early. Eagles: Golden's outnumbered Balds more than 2 to 1; HMMW had 3 Golden and 4 Bald; reports of Balds elsewhere were very few, but Golden's were reported by several individuals and several club trips; 2 Golden's obs over Anthony's nose Oct. 26 were observed an hour later over Ramapo Mt. in N. Jersey. Most other species of hawks were much like last year.

Only 2 Peregrines were reported at HMHW, same as last year. Merlin: down to low of 6 compared to 9 in '73. Kestrel: up 1/3 to 479 at HMHW. King Rail: 1 Sept. 20 near Lithgow. Coot: 45 on Neversink Res Oct. 8-11. Shorebirds made a good show at Piermont Pier. 2 Semipalmated Plover, many Black-bellied Plover, a Short-billed Dowitcher on Sept. 14 and Sanderling Aug. 25. 2 Pectoral Sandpipers at Kiamesha Oct. 27. Great Black-backed Gull: outnumbered Herring at Piermont Pier by 10 to 1 at start of period. Laughing Gull: 450 at Piermont at start of period dropped to 65 by mid-Sept. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: 1 imm again this year for second record for Dutch; 1 Sept. 5 Roosevelt Cove, Hyde Park. (Helen Manson, Alice Jones). Owls: reports usual to better. Fred Hough reports Barred very noisy last winter and spring but quieted dur summer when Horned Owls took over calling and continued thru the fall. Long-eared Owl: 1 Sept. 7 Stormville. Short-eared Owl: 1 Sept. 29 Iona Is, 5th record for Rock.

**GOATSUCKERS-STARLING**: Common Nighthawk: many reports from late Aug. to the last 2 Oct. 6 Pleasant Valley. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to hold in Rock where 5-7 can be found in the Clarkstown area, and 5 at Staatsburg, Dutch. Flycatchers: Phoebe continues well thru Oct. with the last in Dutch Nov. 18. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Aug. 21 and another Sept. 4 Moore's Mills. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Good, last 1 Oct. 5. Tree Swallow: usual large movements from mid-July thru mid-Oct. Cliff Swallow: 2 ad feeding 4 full grown young at Piermont Aug. 25 (Bob Deed). Common Raven: 1 Oct. 9 over Mohonk (Dan Smiley). Common Crow: usual large concentrations by end of season. Fish Crow: usual 3 or 4 in Dutch. Red-breasted Nuthatch: all reports Dutch in Sept.; none later. Winter Wren: more than usual. Catbird: 1 Nov. 29, Rock; 2 from Nov. 4 to end of period, Dutch. Wood Thrush: 1 found dead Nov. 2 Wappingers Falls; very late. Swainson's Thrush: 1 killed in Dutch Oct. 20. Kinglets: good late Sept. movements for both species. Pipit: good numbers, last 50 Nov. 12-15, Amenia. Waxwing: well reported, max 100 Nov. 20, S. Nyack. Northern Shrike: 1 Nov. 20, Millbrook. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Nov. 9 Millbrook.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: Most species of vireos and warblers were normal. Red-eyed Vireo: 1 Oct. 27 Mohonk, late. Good warbler movements were reported on Sept. 6, 25, 27 Oct. 3, 6. Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Nov. 6 and again Nov. 17 at Red Oaks Mill. Orange-crowned Warbler: reported in the Willow area of Ulst (no date). Pine Warbler: more than usual; 2 dur Sept. at New Paltz; 2 Aug. and 2 Sept. records in Dutch. Palm Warbler: 1 Oct. 18 was last. Connecticut Warbler: 1 Oct. 12 Spring Valley ties late date for Rock. Yellow-throat: last Oct. 22 Monticello. Redstart: last Nov. 3 Kripplebush.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS**: Bobolink: well reported Sept. 7-15 at Wawarsing. Northern Oriole: last Oct. 30 in Dutch. Rusty Blackbird: very few; last 2 Nov. 11 Fort Montgomery. Common Grackle: large flocks continue to end of period at Highland Falls, very unusual there in such numbers so late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Oct. 11 Pleasant Valley, very late. **PAINTED BUNTING**: 1 male Nov. 22-28 at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ostergren, Town of Montgomery, Oran. (fide Dr. John Tramontano), bird had no band or signs of captivity, in excellent plumage. Evening Grosbeak: observed "everywhere" first weekend of Nov. and then tapered off to rare by end of month. Savannah Sparrow: 20+ at Spring Valley Oct. 10, unusually high for that area; higher counts are common east of there on the Hudson at Piermont Pier. Grasshopper Sparrow: last 4 Sept. 29 Pleasant Plains. White-crowned Sparrow: excellent numbers all areas late Sept. thru Oct.; a few remained thru Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: 2 in Dutch Oct. 4-7 & 9-11. Snow Bunting: well reported in Oct. in northern part of region, a large flock in Pleasant Valley Dutch thru second week of Nov.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 – MARINE

HUGH D. MCGUINNESS

Uneventful is perhaps the best way to meteorologically describe the fall of 1974. The cool blustery nights responsible for displacing southbound migrants to the coast were absent in August, and irregular in September. As a result, the early migrants were apparent only in small numbers, and very few of the hectic coastal "pile-ups," where birds are literally everywhere, were recorded. October and November continued in a similar vein: weak fronts from the northwest were replaced by air masses from the southwest which rendered balmy summer-like weather. Nothing approximating the previous year's late fall explosion of violent northwest winds materialized, and winter approached gradually with the unseasonably warm climate continuing through the period.

Despite the seemingly unexciting weather, the birding was by no means unexciting. The list of rarities is tremendous and optimistic flights were experienced by a number of species including: Fulmar, and its continued occurrence on offshore boat trips; a good number of European wigeons; early arrivals of Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owl perhaps indicating a flight year; large numbers of Kestrel and more Peregrine Falcons than usual; large numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpiper, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits; continued fall occurrence of Avocet; a fair flight of Dovekie after last year's total absence; excellent number of Short-eared Owl; an unprecedented flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and the continued resurgence of Red-headed Woodpecker; a strong flight of Ruby-crowned Kinglets; good number of Loggerhead Shrike; strong flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; and following the last few years' large numbers another good season of White-crowned Sparrow, and an unprecedented number of Lincoln's Sparrows.

The effects of the weather did not become apparent until late in the fall when the winter finches had failed to fill the vacuum left by the departed passerines. Redpolls, Siskins, and both crossbills were virtually absent; Purple Finch after last fall's record breaking flight were scarce; Goldfinch was low; and Evening Grosbeaks were scattered and few in number. Earlier in the season some of the shorebirds did not appear in the number which had become customary over the past few seasons, in particular, Golden Plover. Other birds that were low in number included Common Eider; Cooper's Hawk; Royal Tern; Forster's Tern; and most vireos and warblers.

Rarities included in this report are: Eared Grebe; Northern Fulmar; Black Brant; Bald Eagle; King Rail; Buff-breasted Sandpiper; Baird's Sandpiper; Curlew Sandpiper; Bar-tailed Godwit; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Franklin's Gull; Gull-billed Tern; Short-billed Marsh Wren; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Clay-colored Sparrow; and Smith's Longspur.

Abbreviations: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Subregional Compilers: Ralph Cioffi; Thomas H. Davis; Fran File; Lore J. Schore; Joe Zeranski.

Contributors and Observers: JA—Jim Ash; HA—Harold Axtell; BWB—Bill & Wilma Baumann; JB—John Bull; TWB—Thomas W. Burke; DB—Dick Byron; MC—Marc Chamberlain; BC—Barbara Conolly; SBD—Steve B. Dempsey; JDC—Joe diCostanzo; WF—Walter Friton; HH—Helen Hirschbein; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; AJL—Anthony J. Lauro; BL—Brooke Lauro; PL—Paul Lehman; EL—Emmanuel Levine; HM—Hugh McGuinness; PMP—Peter M. Polshek; DP—Dennis Puleston; FP—Fred Purnell; BS—Barbara Spencer; LW—Leroy Wilcox; mob—many observers.

PELAGIC TRIPS: Three visits were made to Cox's Ledge this fall on: Sept. 14 (THD, PL, HM, BS *et. al.*); Sept. 28 (NY State Fed. of Bird Clubs trip); Oct. 26 (THD, PMP *et. al.*).

	Sept. 14	Sept. 28	Oct. 26
Manx Shearwater		2	
Greater Shearwater	2	10	210
Cory's Shearwater	4	18	3
NORTHERN FULMAR		1	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	65	40	
Gannet			54
Red Phalarope		6	17
Northern Phalarope			7
Pomarine Jaeger	12	13	9
Parasitic Jaeger	6		
Iceland Gull			1
Kittiwake			21

The Fulmar, a sooty gray individual which was often within 15 feet of the boat, was the sixth occurrence on the ledge in the last year. The recent regularity of Fulmar is probably due to the marked increase, over the last few years, of its population. The Sept. 28 trip noted a Peregrine Falcon, the second year in a row that this has occurred.

LOONS—MERGANSERS: Common Loon: 55 Oct. 13 Rye (TWB)—high, especially for location. Red-throated Loon: 250 birds per hour heading west Nov. 20 Captree (BC). Red-necked Grebe: Nov. 24 Riis Park (JA). *EARED GREBE*: Nov. 17 thru period Great Kills, Staten Island (J. Yrizarry *et. al.*). Great Cormorant: Sept. 25 Shinn (HA, DB)—although this bird is quite rare before mid-October, in recent years it has been showing up regularly in Sept. in the large southbound flocks of Double-crested. Louisiana Heron: Nov. 16 JBWR (T. Amero)—late but not highly unusual. Little Blue Heron: stayed in moderate numbers through the period; 3 imm. Nov. 16 Oak Beach (THD *et. al.*); 10 imm. 1 ad Nov. 19 Tobay (WF); 4 imm. Nov. 30 Tobay (LJS *et. al.*). Whistling Swan: nothing close to last year's unprecedented numbers occurred this fall as only 4 were reported from eastern L.I. in late Nov. *BLACK BRANT*: Oct. 14-Nov. 2 JBWR (JA, THD *et. al.*)—sixth regional occurrence; the bird was seen well by many and the large connected crescentic neck patches and dark underparts were noted. European Wigeon: Sept. 13-Nov. 2 JBWR (mob); Sept. 24 Tobay (HA, DB); 2 Oct. 27-Nov. 18 Hook Pond (THD *et. al.*); Oct. 19 thru period South Haven (DP); Nov. 11 thru period Montauk (LJS, *et. al.*); six individuals, a good count. Common Eider: after at least three years of large numbers at Montauk Pt. the showing so far this season is disappointing: Sept. 27 Montauk Pt. (HA, DB); 3 Nov. 16 Montauk (MK *et. al.*)—only reports. King Eider: adult male Nov. 11 Montauk (LJS, O Dunning)—only report. Black Scoter: 4 Aug. 1 Larchmont (PL).

VULTURES—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Nov. 10 Riis Park (J. Costa)—quite unusual. Goshawk: the strong flights of the last two years were not repeated, but four reports by period-end was a healthy number for this region; Oct. 30-Nov. 11 Muttontown Preserve (fide RC); Nov. 11 Morton NWR (BC); Nov. 30 Cedar Beach (R Koeppel); and 1 at JBWR near the end of the period. Sharp-shinned Hawk: costal maxima higher than last year, 45 Sept. 23 Fire I (EL); 30 Oct. 3 Fire I (LJS). Cooper's Hawk: continues to be the rarest of the regular raptors as only 5 reports were received. Broad-winged Hawk: 182 Sept. 14 Van Cortland Pk. (BWB); Nov. 22 Commack (B. Giffen)—late. Rough-legged Hawk: Oct. 2 Lawrence (HH)—earliest occurrence by 4 days; in general this raptor was more common than usual and seemed to experience a rather heavy flight. Bald Eagle: Nov. 28 Fresh Kills, SI. Harrier: good fall flight; 19 Sept. 23 Fire (EL); 50 Oct. 3 Fire (LJS)—highest number in recent years. Peregrine Falcon: a nice flight although still a long way from optimistic; no less than 25 individuals reported, with 12 in Sept., 12 in Oct. and 1 in Nov.; max 3 Oct. 1 Fire (THD *et. al.*); 7 additional days when at least two were seen. Merlin: not a particularly strong flight as maxima were never above 15 per day. Kestrel: large flight; "several hundred" Sept. 14 eastern LI (MK); 1250 Sept. 23 Fire (EL); 1000+ Oct. 3 Fire (LJS).

KING RAIL: Nov. 23 JBWR (TWB *et. al.*); Nov. 30 Tobay (LJS *et. al.*); American Oystercatcher: 3 Nov. 17 Jones (THD *et. al.*)—latest date by 2 days. Golden Plover: last fall's max of 300+ was never even approached, as this bird returned to its former status of uncommon and widely scattered; arr. Aug. 3 JBWR (D. Finch); 20+ Sept. 2 Sagaponack (TWB, HM); 21 Sept. 6 Westhampton (HM, PMP); 30 Sept. 7 Mecox (BS)—these "low" maxima were only noted in early Sept. which in itself is quite odd; also two late reports; Nov. 23-24 Great Kills, SI (R. Arbib); Nov. 30 Jones (LJS). Solitary Sandpiper: Oct. 26 Montauk (THD *et. al.*)—late. Willet: Nov. 7 JBWR (WB, LJS)—very late. Greater Yellowlegs: 100+ Nov. 4 Hempstead Lake (SBD)—unusual number for so late. Lesser Yellowlegs: 500 Aug. 1 Oak Beach (HM, ROP)—dwindling to 450 Aug. 6; highest recent count. Purple Sandpiper: excellent fall flight; in late Nov. over 200 at Great Kills, SI; 195 Nov. 17 Breezy Pt. (JA, HM). White-rumped Sandpiper: Nov. 16 Hempstead Lk (SBD)—late. *BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: Sept. 7 Sag (MC, PL); Sept. 8 Sag (MC, THD, PL)—different bird. Least Sandpiper: Nov. 16 Hempstead Lk (SBD); Nov. 24 Great Kills, SI (R. Arbib)—latest fall date. *CURLEW SANDPIPER*: Aug. 22-25 JBWR (FP, THD *et. al.*)—bird in partial breeding plumage, first regional record in years. Dunlin: Greenland or European subspecies: Aug. 7 Oak Beach (PL, R. Smart)—extreme small size and heavy breast streaking noted. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 10 Oct. 5 JBWR (C Young)—not a particularly good fall. Stilt Sandpiper: flight began excellently; 54 Aug. 1 JBWR (HM); 70 Aug. 10 Oak Beach (MC, PL, PMP); 80+ Aug. 10 JBWR (TWB, HM); after mid-August, the bird was noticeably scarce. *BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER*: nothing comparable to last year's incredible number, but the fact that they occurred is indeed a plus; 7 Aug. 31-Sept. 2; 1 Sept. 7 Sag (JA *et. al.*); Sept. 16-17 JBWR (mob); Sept. 24 Fire (P Buckley)—nine individuals. Marbled Godwit: 9 individuals from Aug. 10-31 & Sept. 25; max 4 Aug. 31 Moriches (DP). *BAR-TAILED GODWIT*: Aug. 17-18 Moriches (THD, LJS *et. al.*)—third regional record; seen well and in direct comparison to Hudsonians. Hudsonian Godwit: a rather nice flight; 10-12 Aug. 3-31 Moriches (mob); 14 other individuals reported including a rather unusual record for both date and place. 1-3 Oct. 10-Nov. 3 Rye (TWB). Avocet: Aug. 17 Shinn (JA, THD); Sept. 5-7 JBWR (mob); Sept. 14 Tobay (SBD); Sept. 28-29 JBWR (mob). Northern Phalarope: 3 non-palegic trip reports Aug. 11-Sept. 7. Wilson's Phalarope: only five individuals reported Aug. 1-25 and Oct. 15 JBWR (SBD)—late.

Parasitic Jaeger: 26 Sept. 26 Montauk Pt (HA, DB). *LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*: Nov. 28 Jerome Res (P. Buckley). Black-headed Gull: 4 reports all from eastern LI. Laughing Gull: moderate numbers through period but nothing comparable to last year. *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: Sept. 26 Tobay (JDC, AJL, BL, ROP)—all field marks noted, 4th regional record. Little Gull: 2 reports. *GULL-BILLED TERN*: Sept. 15, 27 Tobay (AJL)—rare any time. Forster's Tern: for the second year in a row this bird continues to be scarce. Royal Tern: low numbers max only 12 Sept. 17 Moriches (DP). Least Tern: 3 Oct. 12 Fire I (BS)—latest occurrence by two days. Caspian Tern: Sept. 17 Moriches (DP); 2 Sept. 19 Larchmont (PL)—this bird continues to be quite rare in our area.

Dovekie: 6 reports Nov. 10-17 including one at Clason Pt, Bronx (fide HM). Snowy Owl: by period end at least 6 in the area with 3 on the Jones strip, and 1 at Mecox, Fire I, and Great Kills. Short-eared Owl: after the scarcity of this species for the past few years numbers this fall were surprising; 8 Oct. 20-27 Jones Beach Pk (A. Wollin); 5 Nov. 23 JBWR (TWB *et. al.*). Saw-whet Owl: apparently a rather heavy fall flight despite the fact that some observers commented on their scarcity, however the 45 banded by Darrel Ford from Oct.-Dec. at Fire I is a large number.

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Common Nighthawk: Oct. 19-20 Riis (R. Kelly); Oct. 23 Jones (FF *et. al.*); Oct. 27 Riis (H. Tetrault); all three quite late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 15 Oct. 2 Fire I (PMP); Nov. 11 Riis (JA)—second latest occurrence. Flicker: 1500+ Oct. 1 Fire I (J. Alderman)—very high. Red-headed Woodpecker: no less than 14 reports, mostly immatures, from Sept. 15-Nov. 16, which is an encouraging number as this bird con-

tinues its comeback in our area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: unprecedented numbers in the first week of October: 150+ Oct. 5 Riis (LJS); similar numbers on Oct. 1 at Far Rockaway, Tobay, and Fire I. Western Kingbird: 6 reports, 3 Sept. 17-24, and 3 Nov. 5-period. Crested Flycatcher: Oct. 24 Riis (WB, LJS)—late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Oct. 8 Jones (WB, LJS)—latest occurrence by two days. Barn Swallow: 3 Nov. 16 Montauk (MK *et. al.*). Rough-winged Swallow: Sept. 8 JBWR (JA, HM)—very late. Cliff Swallow: Sept. 5 Oak Beach (HM, PMP); 2-4 Sept. 8-15 JBWR (JA, HM *et. al.*); 2 Sept. 22 Tobay (MK). **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN**: Sept. 18 Tobay (THD); Oct. 5 Riis (JA *et. al.*)—always very rare in this region. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Nov. 20 Riverhead (BC)—late. Northern Shrike: Nov. 11 Riis (JA *et. al.*); Nov. 16 Mecox (BS). Loggerhead Shrike: very good flight with eight reports Sept. 2-21, and late Nov. Great Kills.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: White-eyed Vireo: 15 Sept. 15 Montauk (PMP *et. al.*)—one of the highest regional numbers. Philadelphia Vireo: at least 10 reports Sept. 8-Oct. 8. Warbling Vireo: Sept. 15 Far Rockaway (JB, HH); Sept. 29. Red-eyed Vireo: Nov. 17 Riis (JA, TWB, HM)—latest record by 3 days. Montauk (TWB, HM). Black-and-white Warbler: Nov. 7 Muttontown Preserve (fide RC). Worm-eating Warbler: Sept. 21 Rye (TWB)—only report. Golden-winged Warbler: Sept. 22 Far Rockaway (TWB, HM *et. al.*)—late, and always unusual on LI. Tennessee Warbler: Nov. 23 Riis (JA *et. al.*)—latest date by over a month. Orange-crowned Warbler: 15 reported Sept. 12 Jones (WB, LJS) & Oct. 1-Nov. 16; max 4 Oct. 5 Tobay (AJL). Myrtle Warbler: 850 Oct. 19 Jones (PMP). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Oct. 19 Riis (R Hines)—2nd latest date. Palm Warbler: 150 Oct. 1 Fire I, Jones (PMP)—highest fall maxima. Kentucky Warbler: Oct. 12 Fire (BS). Connecticut Warbler: 6 reported Sept. 17-Oct. 1, with 2 Sept. 26 Tobay (AJL *et. al.*). Mourning Warbler: Sept. 22 Tobay (AJL)—only report. Yellow-breasted Chat: 9 reports.

**BLACKBIRDS—BUNTINGS**: Bobolink: Nov. 5 Riis (THD); Nov. 11 Breezy Pt. (JA)—both quite late being third and second latest respectively. Yellow-headed Blackbird: Sept. 16 JBWR (LJS); Sept. 29 Fire (AJL, BS); Nov. 8 Westhampton Beach (LW)—three individuals represent the highest fall number. Northern Oriole: 40+ Sept. 5 Tobay (HM, PMP)—high. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 100+ Sept. 15 Far Rockaway (JB, HH)—by far the highest regional number ever recorded. Blue Grosbeak: 6 reports Sept. 15-Oct. 19. Dickcissel: continues to be an uncommon migrant, although strictly along the barrier beaches. Evening Grosbeak: low numbers all fall, no more than 6 anywhere. Common Redpoll: 2 Nov. 11 Jones (SBD)—only report. Pine Siskin: Oct. 27 Riis (JA)—only report. Red Crossbill: Oct. 27 Riis (JA)—only report. White-winged Crossbill: 3 Nov. 28 Islip (C. Kilby)—at feeder, and only report. What a dearth of Finches!

Lark Sparrow: 5 reports Sept. 14-27. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: Oct. 13 Lawrence (JB, HH); Oct. 19 Montauk (JA); Nov. 2 Fire I (BS); three records is quite extraordinary, as is the lateness of each. White-crowned Sparrow: this bird continues its large numbers in our area; 160 Oct. 12 Fire I (BS)—highest fall number; 60 Oct. 19 Fire (THD); and finally this fall two western races were recorded on Sept. 26 Tobay (AJL)—specimen to American Museum of Natural History No. 811080, and also Oct. 20 Tobay (AJL)—banded and let live. Lincoln's Sparrow: unprecedented fall numbers; a number of days when 8-10 were rumored, but unfortunately nobody decided to report those days; max 6 Oct. 1 Fire, Jones (PMP *et. al.*); DP banded 28 at Brookhaven, as opposed to an average of 19 on other "flight" years. **SMITH'S LONGSPUR**: Sept. 22 Fire I (THD, PMP, MC, AJL, BL, JDC, R Smart)—first state record; this almost-unbelievable bird had the great misfortune of being either accidentally or purposefully crushed (depending on whose story you listen to) after numerous frustrating attempts at capture in a mist net, and consequentially presently resides in a drawer at A.M.N.H. with the number 811078.

## REGION 10 — MARINE

HUGH D. McGUINNESS

(Summer report received too late for publication in October.)

June and July offered auspicious conditions for local breeders for the first time in at least two years. The data collected tends to confirm a successful breeding season, although this may be misleading due to the dearth of reports. Noticeably absent were the results of an aerial survey of the major breeding bird colonies on Long Island.

The Captree June "Christmas" Count was successfully held for the third year in a row; the idea of holding a one-day count to ascertain a macroscopic picture of the status of various breeding birds has proven attractive to participants, and presents itself as a viable method of obtaining large amounts of breeding bird data. The alternative is the breeding bird census which has been so unpopular in the past that its spotty and uncorrelated data is meaningless in this respect. Once again, Connetquot River State Park, probably the only unspoiled tract of land left on Long Island, proved to be the superstar of the count—producing birds unknown as breeders elsewhere in the region. It is almost unfortunate that Connetquot offers the opportunity to look into the past, for it manifests the potential which once existed but has been destroyed by the human onslaught.

On the brighter side were a number of interesting reports concerning breeders like Great Horned Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bluebird, Red Crossbill, Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows, and a number of probable breeders including Black Rail, Chuck-will's-widow, Acadian Flycatcher, Hermit and Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Summer Tanager. Rare birds included in this report are Magnificent Frigatebird, Skua, Sabine's Gull, and Sandwich Tern.

Abbreviations: CBC—Captree Breeding Census; CRSP—Connetquot River State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Collaborator: Thomas H. Davis—editor NY Rare Bird Alert; dial 212-832-6523 for a taped message of unusual birds in the NY City area.

Sub-regional Compilers: Ralph Cioffi; Fran File; Lore J. Schore; Joe Zeranski.

Contributors and Observers: JA—Jim Ash; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; TWB—Thomas W. Burke; SBD—Steve B. Dempsey; HM—Hugh McGuinness; PMP—Peter M. Polshek; DP—Dennis Puleston; LW—Leroy Wilcox.

### Breeding Reports

*Colonial Nesters:* Herons: no reports received; Gulls: no reports received; Terns: (all of the following Michael Gochfeld unless otherwise noted):

1. Breezy Point: 75 prs Least Tern (JA); as recently as three years ago this area held 1500-2000 prs of Common Terns
2. Meadowbrook 1: 60-80 prs Common Tern. Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls are encroaching and have reduced the numbers of terns.
3. Meadowbrook 2 (Loop Causeway): 120-150 nests Common Tern. 20-30 nests Least Tern, 61 nests Black Skimmer, and 20 nests Herring Gull which are expanding here.
4. West End, Jones Beach: Common Tern. 1800-1900 prs; Black Skimmer, 31 prs.
5. Short Beach Jetty: Common Tern, 140 nests; Black Skimmer, 23 nests; Least Tern, 1 nest—first in recent years.
6. West End 2: Common Tern, 1 nest; Least Tern, 20 nests.
7. Wantagh Causeway at Jones Beach: Common Tern, 1 nest; Least Tern, 8 nests.
8. Gilgo Beach: Least Tern, 5-6 prs.
9. Cedar Beach: Common Tern, 2100+ 200 nests; Roseate Tern, 25-30 nests; Least Tern, 6 nests; Black Skimmer, 78 nests.

10. Great Gull Island (H Hays): Common Tern, 2500 prs; Roseate Tern, 1300 prs.

LOONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 3 nests, 10 young, Rye (TWB)—location unusual. Mute Swan: tremendous concentrations on eastern LI, notably: 155 June 5 Mecox to Sagaponack (HM). Osprey: DP reports: "My annual survey of the reproductive success of this bird on Long Island indicates a considerable improvement over the past few years . . . pesticide levels in unhatched eggs are going down. For the first time in many years, I could not find a single thin-shelled, cracked or dented egg on Gardiner's Island." Gardiner's Island produced 26 young from 34 active nests (as compared to 18 from 31 nests in 1973), 3 nests on Robin's Island produced 6 young, and one nest at CRSP fledged 3 young. Although the recent turn of events is truly optimistic, the Osprey is just beginning its recovery, and must be carefully watched and guarded in the future. Anyone who knows of any other regional nestings is urged to send details. Harrier: one nest on Gardiner's I fledged 2 young (DP); territorial birds noted at JBWR, and Oak Beach. Virginia Rail: 9-11 pairs Oak Beach (HM)—last known major concentration on LI. Sora: 1 pair territorial Mecox (JA, HM)—only breeding report in region. Black Rail: 5 territorial males Oak Beach (THD, HM)—at least four of these five were noted regularly in the same territories throughout June; the birds were usually found in the phragmites where they probably nested although no absolute proof was found.

Barn Owl: LW reports 3 nesting pairs on eastern LI, at Hampton Bays, Bridgehampton, and Montauk. Screech Owl: this bird is obviously much more common in the region than is realized as indicated by 8 Jun. 8 Heckscher (HM, PMP)—birds found in 1 hour of searching on one path. Great Horned Owl: this bird may also be more common than realized as is indicated by Otto Heck's survey in highly residential northern Nassau County; which turned up 14 adults and 8 young; Will Donaldson also reported a pair which produced one young (same area); unfortunately at least two owls died during nesting, and 2 nests were abandoned as a result of human disturbance. Short-eared Owl: 1 seen in June at Oak Beach (JA)—hopefully nesting. Chuck-will's-widow: 2 males heard calling through Jun. 13 Oak Beach, and through July 7 Staten I (H Fischer *et. al.*)—with the continued occurrence of this species in our area breeding evidence should be searched for. Whip-poor-will: 100+ Jun. 8 CRSP (THD *et. al.*)—despite the tremendous concentration here, none were found at adjacent areas. Red-headed Woodpecker: LW reports a pair nested in Riverhead, this is probably the first known breeding occurrence for region 10, and reflects the recovery that this bird seems to have made in our area in the last few years.

PASSERINES: Crested Flycatcher: 55 Jun. 8 CRSP—more than 3 times the number found elsewhere on the count. Acadian Flycatcher: 1 early June CRSP (THD); June 8 CBC (R Pasquier). Eastern Wood Pewee: 28 Jun. 8 CRSP—high. White-breasted Nuthatch: 18 Jun. 8 CRSP. Brown Creeper: 11 Jun. 8 CRSP—only known breeding locale on LI. House Wren: 52 Jun. 8 CRSP. Carolina Wren: 9 June 8 CBC—first time in years found elsewhere than CRSP which had 7. Catbird: 162 Jun. 8 Heckscher—this is one species that has obviously benefited by the conversion to parklands. Wood Thrush: 12 Jun. 8 CRSP—highest on count by far. Hermit Thrush: 2 Jun. 8 CRSP—breeding likely. Swainson's Thrush: 2 Jun. 8 CRSP—breeding possible, only locale in area. Veery: 56 Jun. 8 CRSP. Eastern Bluebird: 5 prs CRSP; 2 prs Riverhead produced 7 young (LW)—only known locales in region.

White-eyed Vireo: 15 Jun. 8 Heckscher. Yellow-throated Vireo: Jun. 8 CRSP—only known breeding locale in region. Red-eyed Vireo: 51 Jun. 8 CRSP. Black-and-white Warbler: 53 Jun. 8 CRSP—only 56 on count. Prothonotary Warbler: singing male June 3-5 Peconic River (DP); Jun. 18 Carman's River (DP)—when will this species be found breeding in our area! Pine Warbler: 40 Jun. 8 CRSP—very high. Prairie Warbler: 10 Jun. 8 CRSP. Chestnut-sided Warbler: 6 Jun. 8 CRSP—only ones on count. Ovenbird: 59 June 8 CRSP—high. Northern Waterthrush: a singing territorial male Jun. 8 Belmont Lake State Park (T Robben, G Tudor)—no LI nesting record, although it looks possible here. Canada Warbler: 3 Jun. 8 CRSP—only known breeders in region.

Scarlet Tanager: 11 Jun. 8 CRSP. Summer Tanager: Jun. 5 Commack (FF *et. al.*)—only report. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 2 prs Jun. 8 Belmont (G Tudor). Red Crossbill: 6 prs Jun. 8 CRSP—Definite breeding, after last fall's incursion this was almost inevitable. Rufous-sided Towhee: 148 Jun. 8 CRSP. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 60 Jun. 8 Oak Beach. Seaside Sparrow: 80 Jun. 8 Oak Beach; these are the highest concentrations known in the area for the marsh sparrows.

#### Summer Vagrants

LOONS—MERGANSERS: Common Loon: 10 Jun. 8 CBC; 8 at Fire I. Sooty Shearwater: 21 May 19 FI Inlet (D Powers); 19 Jun. 4 Shinnecock (HM); 9+ Jun. 8 Fire I. Greater Shearwater: Jun. 8 Fire I—early. *MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD*: a male Jun. 8 Fire I Inlet (TWB, HM, PMP)—seen heading inland toward Babylon where seen by a reporter for the "Long Island Press." Undoubtedly the same bird was observed the following day at Georgica Pond (M Kalogerakis)—8th state occurrence. Bufflehead: pr. summered at Sag Harbor (LW). Oldsquaw: Jul. 5 Hither Hills (B Dieterich). King Eider: young male summered at Shinnecock Bay (LW); 8 Jun. 11 Montauk Point (PAB)—summer maximum.

VULTURES—OWLS: Bald Eagle: imm Jul. 29 Moriches (O Dunning)—quite unusual in summer. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1300+ Jul. 28 JBWR (HM). Stilt Sandpiper: arr Jul. 13 (W & B Baumann); 50 Jul. 27 JBWR (M Kleinbaum). Western Sandpiper: Jul. 28 JBWR (P Lehman). Marbled Godwit: Jun. 16 JBWR (JA)—first June occurrence, sixth spring occurrence. Hudsonian Godwit: 2 Jul. 21-22 JBWR (JA *et. al.*); 2 Jul 28-31 (mob). Wilson's Phalarope: Jul. 21-22 JBWR (JA *et. al.*); 2 Jul. 27-31 Oak Beach (mob).

*SKUA*: Jun. 8 Fire Island (PAB, A J Lauro, R O Paxton)—excellent and lengthy study of an individual as it flew over the surf. Parasitic Jaeger: 13+ Jun. 8 Fire I. Glaucous Gull: Jun. 11 Montauk (PAB)—very rare in summer. *SABINE'S GULL*: Jul. 28 Jones (T Robben)—a well observed individual, close to shore, in almost complete breeding plumage except that the head was changing. Caspian Tern: imm Jul. 20-21 Hempstead Lake State Park (SBD). *SANDWICH TERN*: 2 late May Jones Inlet (M Gochfeld)—well seen, and different calls noted as they flew directly overhead; these followed an uncorroborated report in mid-May at Cedar Beach; 2nd spring occurrence.

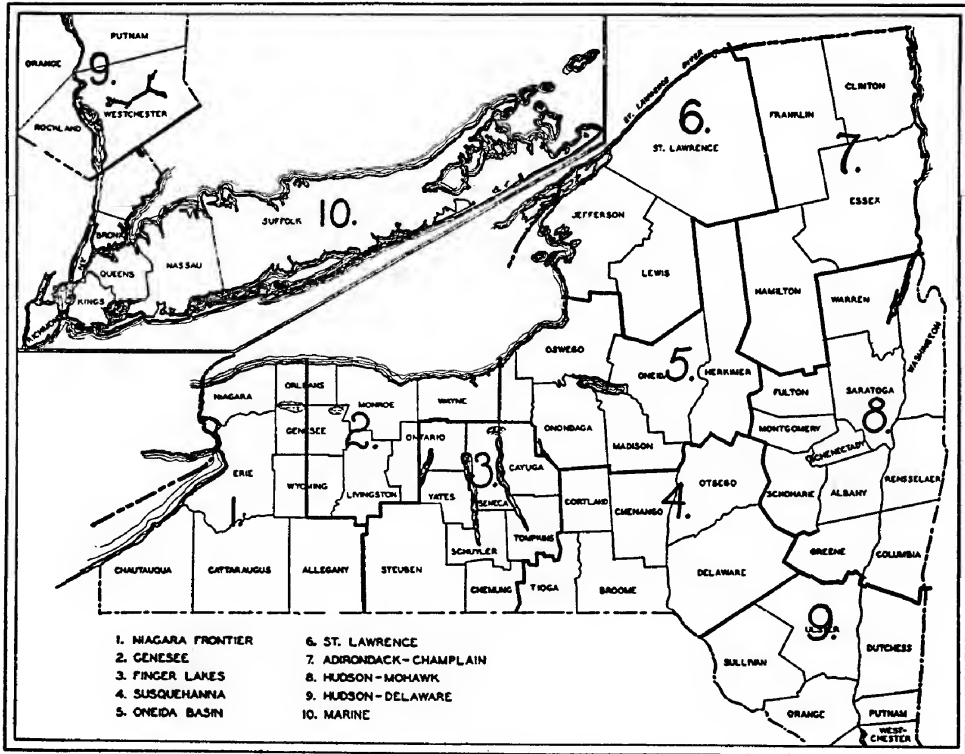
GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Red-breasted Nuthatch: Jun. 13 Cedar Beach (HM)—no evidence of breeding despite search; Jul. 4-28 New Rochelle (P Lehman); Jul. 6 Brookville (B Conolly).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Blackpoll Warbler: Jun. 18, Jun. 26 Wave Hill, Bronx (R Pasquier).

Winter reports due Mar. 5; Spring reports due Jun. 5.

22 East 8th Street, New York, New York 10003

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

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